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Feature Articles

Promoting consensus for post-2015 development agenda

The UN General Assembly's Second Committee has to address a wide range of important topics related to economic growth and development this fall. Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi, the Chair of the Committee, sat down with DESA News for an exclusive interview to share some of the major tasks before the Committee, including financing for sustainable development, sustainable development goals in the post-2015 development agenda and the global Ebola response.



Watch the interview on YouTube <http://bit.ly/1tp603B>

Taking aim at the topic of inequality and featuring keynote speaker Professor Janet C. Gornick, Director of the Luxembourg Income Study Cross-National Data Center, the Second Committee kicked off its fall session on 7 October with the general debate including 94 statements, an increase compared to last year's session.

"This is a testimony to the great interest of the General Assembly for the work of the Committee this year," said Ambassador Cardi, as DESA News got an opportunity to speak with him following the Committee's morning meeting, where it had just discussed the topic of sustainable development, one of its most extensive agenda items with a total of 24 reports under consideration.

"This year is a particular year, because we are going to face in 2015 some important processes related to the work of the Second Committee," said Ambassador Cardi as he described some of the main issues before the Committee, highlighting financing for development and the post-2015 development agenda.

Taking aim at sustainable development, Ebola response and more

Ambassador Cardi also pointed to sustainable development as the one item being present throughout the work of the Committee. "I think we will be able to give substantial contribution by focusing on the sustainable development goals," he said, also adding other important issues including climate change, disaster risk reduction and the importance of the least developed countries or landlocked developed countries.

“But there is one issue which is of particular worry for the general membership and it is of course the outbreak of Ebola,” Ambassador Cardi said, describing the swift action taken by the UN General Assembly in establishing the first-ever UN emergency health mission, the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER).

“The problem is the potential spread of the virus, the situation it creates in terms of backtracking progress we have witnessed in some of the countries involved,” he said. “This will have an impact of the proceedings of the Committee and we will have to give special attention to this very important issue,” he continued, emphasizing the urgent need for the international community to tackle this challenge.

Climate change and financing for development

Discussing the wide range of issues on the Committee’s agenda this fall, Ambassador Cardi highlighted some of the more pressing matters, in addition to the Ebola crisis. “There are at least three items in which the Committee will have to send strong messages,” he said, pointing to the first being climate change. Referring to a successful climate summit convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in September, Ambassador Cardi highlighted the upcoming Lima meeting at the end of the year and Paris COP21 at the end of 2015. “We hope to be able to send signals to the membership that can influence in some way the next processes that will take place in 2015,” he said.

“The second is financing for development,” Ambassador Cardi added, referring to next year’s Third International Conference on Financing for Development taking place in Addis Ababa on 13-16 July 2015. “It is important that the Committee helps and facilitates the deliberations of this very important conference because financing for development, the means for development, is one of the crucial issues,” he said.

Ambassador Cardi also highlighted the work of the Committee in setting the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, praising the efforts of the Open Working Group and describing the Committee’s role. “I hope as Chair, to be able to create a good atmosphere that will in turn help the next phase of deliberations of the post-2015 development agenda,” he explained.

Side events provide further insights

E-government for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), social market economy and new instruments of social finance – these are some of the topics for the six side events and special meetings arranged by the Second Committee this fall.

“It is important to have side events because they help the general membership to understand better some of the issues we are examining and deciding upon,” explained Ambassador Cardi,

describing how the Committee for these events brings in experts and external actors to address different topics.

“We started yesterday with the first side event [...] on debt restructuring,” he said, pointing to the importance of this issue for a growing number of countries. “We had a very strong turnout of Member States attending the session and listening very attentively to what our guests had to say,” he added.

“Monitoring is of course a big part of the post-2015 development agenda,” Ambassador Cardi continued, referring to the side event on “Promoting accountability at all levels: monitoring the post-2015 development agenda,” which took place on 31 October.

“We will have to increase our capacity to be able to understand the progress of the development goals,” he explained, describing the importance of monitoring progress in various countries in order to change course, adapting strategies to the situation on the ground. Other events of the Committee this fall take aim at the investment promotion regime for foreign direct investment in Least Developed Countries and a renewed global partnership for development.

Building consensus the goal

“The main objective would be to give some contribution to the process of the post-2015 development agenda,” Ambassador Cardi said, as he discussed with DESA News some of the main achievements that he is hoping for as the Committee will wrap up the session in December.

“Promoting consensus on some contentious issues such as trade, finance, technology, the means of implementation and also on debt restructuring,” he added, explaining that these are some of the issues where there are sometimes different views from the various negotiating groups.

“Our goal is to build consensus, to bring about all the Member States to a shared objective,” Ambassador Cardi said encouragingly, also adding the hope to review working methods. “We hope to get a fresh look upon working methods, to make our work more effective for the benefit of the Member States and the international community,” he said.

For more information:

[United Nations General Assembly’s Second Committee](#)

[Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy and Chair of the GA Second Committee](#)

With the goal to finance a sustainable future

“Financing is critical to achieving sustainable development. Financing needs are large. Raising the necessary resources will be challenging, but it is feasible,” said Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, as preparations for this major event to be held in Addis Ababa in July in 2015, kicked off in New York on 17 October.



“Arriving at a comprehensive financing framework will be central to any agreement on a sustainable development agenda,” Mr. Wu continued, pointing to the opportunity that the Conference in Addis Ababa will provide. “The success of the Conference will be a significant milestone for the Summit on post-2015 in September next year,” he said.

Scheduled to take place in the capital of Ethiopia on 13-16 July 2015, the Conference aims to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and to address new and emerging issues in financing sustainable development across the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Its preparations kicked off in New York on 17 October when the first substantive informal session took place led by the Co-facilitators Ambassador George Wilfred Talbot (Guyana) and Ambassador Geir O. Pedersen (Norway).

“The year 2015 will make history for sustainable development,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he addressed the meeting. He highlighted that there are three main priorities for the international community next year including accelerating efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to agree on a transformative post-2015 development agenda and to achieve a universal climate agreement in Paris.

“Financing is one of the keys to succeed in all these endeavors,” Ban Ki-moon emphasized. “It will be at the heart of the political agreement that Governments have to reach for a successful sustainable development agenda. That is why the outcome of the Addis Ababa Conference is so important,” he added.

Road to Addis Ababa

Paving the way to the Conference, the General Assembly decided to host a series of substantive informal sessions and informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector, as well as drafting sessions of the outcome document of the Conference in January, April and June 2015.

Building on the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the preparations for the Conference will focus on several major topics, such as the mobilization and effective use of resources for sustainable development, including domestic, international, public, private and blended finance, as well as the enabling environment and systemic issues. The reports of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, will provide important inputs to the Conference.

“The recent report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing provides an analytical framework and offers policy options”, Ban Ki-moon highlighted. “And by identifying, not only sources of funds, but also uses, the report moves towards a convergence of the Monterrey and Rio processes, thereby setting the stage for Addis Ababa”.

Creating a new financing framework

A holistic financing framework for sustainable development will need to build on all six chapters of the Monterrey Consensus, focusing on mobilizing financing for development from all available sources, including domestic financial resources, international private flows and international financial and technical cooperation, as well as the importance of the enabling domestic and international environment. It also needs to address additional challenges and be mindful of changes and continuities in the financing landscape.

“The new financing framework must be broad in scope and, at the same time, concrete. It should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner, and seek coherence with other financing streams, including climate finance,” the Secretary-General said. He also underscored that expectations for the event are high and that partners are eager to support the preparatory process.

Also addressing the first preparatory event, the President of the General Assembly Sam Kahamba Kutesa, emphasized the need to enhance mobilization of the full range of resources on all fronts and to strengthen the global partnership for development. “Due attention should be given to measures that can boost foreign direct investment (FDI) and other private capital flows, international trade, increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, improve sustainable debt financing, and address systemic issues,” Mr. Kutesa stated.

Stepping stone for post-2015 development agenda

The upcoming Addis Ababa Conference is viewed by many as a crucial stepping stone for the post-2015 development agenda. “Together, we have the opportunity to make the Addis Ababa Conference a success and lay the foundation for the implementation of an ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda,” said Mr. Wu encouragingly. “I am committed to working towards this goal with all of you,” he added.

The Secretary-General also called on the international community to “agree on a strong, meaningful framework of concrete ways forward”, underscoring at the same time that the stakes are high and that “we cannot afford to fail”. “We must show our capacity to deliver on a genuine and effective global partnership for the future of our planet and the wellbeing of future generations. I call on all Member States to rise to this challenge and make Addis Ababa the success it must be,” Ban Ki-moon said.

For more information:

[Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#)

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

[Watch the first substantive informal session on UN Web TV](#)

Using data to measure gender equality

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which set out principles and goals for achieving gender equality and empowering women, how far has the world come in realizing this vision and in improving the status of women around the world? To assess progress made in improving the lives of women and men, the production and use of relevant, accurate and timely gender statistics is critical.



Recognizing the importance of appropriate data for designing policies and assessing progress towards the goal of gender equality, the Beijing Platform for Action requested national, regional and international statistical services to “ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analyzed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society”. It is through the collection, production, analysis and use of gender statistics that policy makers and development practitioners can begin to properly address the specific issues of women and men.

Gender statistics are not just relevant for monitoring the status of women. They can also be used to shed light on specific issues relating to men, such as men’s risk of accidents, harmful use of tobacco and alcohol, and access to paid paternity leave. Ideally, gender statistics should be used to inform all policies and programmes, so that gender issues are mainstreamed and policies are designed to enable the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by women and men. The inclusion of a stand-alone goal on “achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls” in the Outcome document of the Open Working Group (OWG) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in New York in July 2014, reinforces the importance of this issue and will likely increase the demand for

gender statistics that reflect the differences between men and women in society.

Gender statistics – challenges at every stage

Critical as they are to designing effective policies and programmes, the production of gender statistics presents significant challenges to National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in many countries and many data gaps exist, particularly in areas such as poverty, time use, violence against women, and the environment. “There is an urgent need to improve statistical systems to ensure the full mainstreaming of gender into data production, analysis and dissemination and increase the availability of gender statistics for national and international monitoring,” said Stefan Schweinfest, Director of UN DESA’s Statistics Division, as he addressed a Gender Statistics Workshop in Fiji in August this year.

Gender statistics means more than just sex-disaggregated data, although in some cases this can be a challenge in itself. Producing gender statistics also means collecting and analysing data that address specific issues that may affect women more than men (or vice versa), as well as incorporating a gender dimension into data collection processes so that the experiences of all women and men are properly captured and gender biases are avoided.

It is important to note that while sex refers to the biological differences between women and men, gender refers to the social constructs of being ‘male’ or ‘female’, which can vary over time and across cultures.

One of the major challenges in producing gender statistics is that they are often seen as addressing a ‘women’s issue’ and become marginalized instead of mainstreamed, with no clear institutional arrangements in place to coordinate their production and limited resources dedicated to data collection and dissemination.

For instance, from a global review of national gender statistics programmes, undertaken by the UN DESA’s Statistics Division in collaboration with the UN regional commissions in 2012, out of 126 responding countries only 13 percent had a specific budget allocated to gender statistics within the overall national budget for statistics, 47 percent relied on ad-hoc/project funds and the remaining 39 percent had no funds at all.

In some cases data are available but they are not used to produce gender statistics, or gender statistics are produced but they are not presented in a way that facilitates clear understanding of gender issues and differences. Another significant challenge relates to the need to address gender equality and women’s empowerment for different demographic and social groups.

Life-cycle analyzes of gender equality suggest that women and girls face different constraints that can be age-specific or may be specific to different socio-economic groups. Disaggregated statistics along these lines should be promoted as well as a

renewed effort to fully analyze existing survey data, and to invest in other data sources, including administrative records.

Guidelines on how to collect data on violence against women

In many cases, gender issues are emerging issues for which there are few international standards for countries to follow. In the case of violence against women, a relatively new area of research, guidelines on how best to collect data are only recently being established.

This sensitive issue requires unique approaches to data collection, which take into account key issues of safety and ethics. Specialized training is required for interviewers to enable them to build rapport with respondents and gain their trust, so that respondents feel able to open up on this personal and often traumatic topic.

UN DESA’s Statistics Division recently published *Guidelines on Producing Statistics on Violence Against Women – Statistical Surveys*, which provides information for countries looking to collect data on this underreported area according to internationally agreed standards facilitating cross-country comparisons.

Working to improve gender statistics

To work towards meeting these challenges, the UN Statistical Commission established the Global Gender Statistics Programme, coordinated by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) and implemented by UN DESA’s Statistics Division and key partner agencies.



The overall goal is to enhance the capacity of countries to collect, disseminate and use reliable statistics and indicators to assess the relative situation of women and men in gender-sensitive, policy-relevant areas. It focuses on: strengthening national capacity for the production, dissemination and use of gender relevant statistics; developing and promoting methodological guidelines and addressing emerging issues of gender concern; facilitating access to data; and improving

coherence among existing initiatives on gender statistics through international coordination.

One recent achievement is the establishment of a Minimum Set of Gender Indicators comprised of 52 quantitative and 11 qualitative indicators. These indicators address the key policy concerns identified in the Beijing Platform for Action and

represent a significant step forward in identifying priorities in the production of harmonized gender statistics and facilitating national, regional and international assessment of progress towards gender equality.

Taking stock and moving forward

As part of the Global Gender Statistics Programme, a series of Global Forums have taken place around the world to bring together both users and producers of gender statistics. The upcoming 5th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, to be held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 3-5 November, in collaboration with Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), will bring together over 100 experts to evaluate current international standards, share best practice at the national and international levels and discuss on-going initiatives to strengthen gender statistics.

The Forum will focus on issues related to measuring and monitoring gender equality in the following 'thematic pillars': women and the economy; violence against women; time use; political participation; the environment; and women in armed conflicts. It will provide an opportunity to assess the current status of gender statistics and how they can be further strengthened so as to best inform policies aiming at improving the lives of women and men around the world.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Statistics Division – Gender Statistics](#)

[Global Forum on Gender Statistics \(3-5 November 2014\)](#)

[The Global Gender Statistics Programme – Minimum Set of Gender Indicators](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

ECOSOC holds coordination and management meeting



The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold its fourth Coordination and Management Meeting on 17-18 November at UN Headquarters in New York.

During the meeting, the Council will review the reports of some of its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Regional Commissions. It will also consider special country situations, namely Haiti, with the report of its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on development support to that country, as well as South Sudan.

Considering specific development issues, the Council will interact with the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security and be briefed on the work of the 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns (10YFP). It will also hold a panel discussion organized by UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and ITU on "Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Enhancing access to and security of ICTs".

For more information:

[ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meetings-CMM](#)

Call extended for 2015 UN Public Service Awards nominations



The United Nations has been receiving nominations for the 2015 UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) since August and will be accepting nominations until the new deadline of 18 November 2014.

The UNPSA is an international contest designed to promote and support innovations in public service delivery worldwide. The Award is open to all public organizations, including governments and public-private partnerships involved in delivering services to citizens.

The UNPSA takes place every year on 23 June, the United Nations Public Service Day. For 2015, the UNPSA will be given to those public institutions that have distinguished themselves in one of the following categories: i) Improving the Delivery of Public Services; ii) Fostering Participation in Policy-making Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms; iii) Promoting Whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age, and iv) Promoting Gender-Responsive Delivery of Public Services. The Award highlights cutting edge innovations and recognizes that democracy and effective governance is built on a competent civil service.

The UNPSA is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service and it rewards the achievement and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide. The objective of the Awards is to enable innovation and knowledge sharing by recognizing initiatives from around the world which have made a significant impact in the delivery of public services by public sector institutions.

During the Awards ceremony in June each year, a large number of participants attend from all over the world, including world leaders, ministers, senior government officials, mayors, representatives from civil society, academia, and the private sector, as well as representatives from international and regional organizations. The United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony hosted by the Republic of Korea in June 2014 was attended by close to 2,000 people from all over the world.

The UNPSA programme has grown tremendously since its inception. A robust and consistent increase in the number of

nominations submitted and the expansion of geographical representation has been observed since the first year of the program in 2003. Furthermore, new countries apply to the programme each year, highlighting the attractive nature of the programme in motivating countries to submit their public administration innovations.

Videos from the UNPSA 2014 can be found on [YouTube](#), including the opening and closing ceremonies, roundtable discussions and videos from winning initiatives. The call for nominations for the upcoming UNPSA 2015 is still open and nominations can be submitted [online here](#) until 18 November 2014.

For more information: [UN Public Service Awards](#)

Third Committee considers rights of indigenous peoples



“Although we have become better at talking about indigenous peoples, through declarations, policies or legislation, there remains a major gap between words and actions”, said Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary General for Policy

Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in UN DESA, reflecting the tone of statements made before the Third Committee on 20 October.

Mr. Thomas Gass presented the final report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People on behalf of UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo.

This year marks the end of the Second Decade, which was declared by the UN General Assembly in 2004 and aimed to draw attention and provide concrete action to address the development challenges facing indigenous peoples around the world.

“The implementation of the Second Decade has achieved some major successes” said Mr. Gass, referring to the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 as the most notable success.

“However”, he warned, a “substantial gap” remains between recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and implementation

on the ground. “Much more remains to be done” Mr. Gass concluded.

In referring to some of the shortcomings of the Second Decade, Mr. Gass referenced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), criticizing that “while Member States have put significant effort into MDG attainment, indigenous peoples have remained largely invisible in the process”.

Looking towards the future, Mr. Gass recommended the establishment of a third international decade focused on the full and effective implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in order to bring consistent and renewed commitment to issues affecting indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples cannot be left out of world development agenda



Echoing these views, Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – who was presenting her first report to the UN General Assembly – stressed that “huge challenges in the

implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous peoples remain”.

Ms. Tauli Corpuz praised advances at the international level that have moved away from “assimilationist” and “integrationist” models for development of indigenous peoples, noting that these “failed to take into account the diversity of human livelihoods, cultures and concepts of well-being”.

Highlighting the deep ongoing challenges in addressing indigenous peoples' disadvantage in nearly all of the countries in which they live, the Special Rapporteur stressed that indigenous peoples must be front and centre in the design of and control over development initiatives.

“Strengthening indigenous peoples' own strategies for sustainable development is not only key to achieving their economic, social and cultural rights, but it is also an indispensable element of the global efforts to achieve sustainable development”, she said.

At the same time, the Special Rapporteur criticized “the failure of the international community” to use the Millennium Development Goals to address concerns of indigenous peoples

in the context of development. “Based on available data regarding social and economic conditions of indigenous peoples”, she noted, “it is evident that the MDGs did not address or resolve” the continued situation of disadvantage of indigenous peoples.

Speaking to Member States, Ms. Tauli Corpuz stressed that she remains “deeply concerned that the particular situation of indigenous peoples often remains invisible within national statistics”.

The Special Rapporteur expressed her hope that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be used to respond to indigenous peoples aspirations for self-determined development and to achieve equality in development outcomes.

General debate focuses on advancements at national level

During the general debate, Member States referred to specific advancements in the legal, policy and administrative frameworks concerning indigenous peoples at the national levels. Several highlighted the need to harmonize national laws and policies with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Member States also welcomed the recent World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the first time the UN had organized such an event, a huge gathering of States, indigenous peoples representatives and others in New York last month, and emphasized the importance of the adoption and implementation of the conference Outcome Document.

The Third Committee heard interventions from 38 speakers, which included 33 individual member countries.

For more information:

[Watch the video of the Third Committee session](#)

[United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

[UN General Assembly’s Third Committee](#)

Actions for SAMOA Pathway already underway



“Our purpose is to underscore once again the importance of the outcomes of the Conference, both the SAMOA pathway and the partnerships that were launched in Apia,” said Martin Sajdik, President of ECOSOC, at the

opening of the informal stock-taking meeting on the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States on 1 October 2014 at UN Headquarters in New York.

The meeting focused on lessons learned and the way forward for implementation. “The SAMOA Pathway, as a well-crafted intergovernmental agreement that has the zeal and stamp of approval of the UN membership, is the blueprint for SIDS sustainable development for now and the immediate future,” said Aliioaiga Feturi Elisia, Samoa’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Conference outcomes and their implementation

Participants who took the floor commended the excellent preparation and running of the Conference and its successful outcomes. They called for concrete implementation of the SAMOA (SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action) Pathway and partnerships on SIDS, strengthening review and coordination within the UN system, and the consideration of the special needs and challenges faced by SIDS in the post-2015 development agenda.

In the course of the meeting, sustainable and inclusive economic development was described as the bedrock on which the future of all SIDS will be built. Empowerment of women and girls, promoting SIDS heritage and culture as a force of social cohesion, and addressing the scourge of non-communicable diseases were further topics reflected on.

The global nature of climate change and disaster risk management were emphasized, as was the need to find a global response. The importance of reaching an agreement on addressing climate change in Paris 2015 was highlighted. Sustainable energy, the health of oceans and the threat to water and food in SIDS were also raised in the course of the meeting.

UN DESA's follow-up

“The success of the Conference will also be measured by its follow-up and its future impact on the sustainable development of SIDS” said Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General at UN DESA and Secretary-General of the Conference. He outlined a number of actions already initiated by his Department to this end:

- An implementation matrix mapping out the specific roles and tasks of UN system organizations in implementing the Conference outcomes is being prepared. A comprehensive review of UN system support to SIDS is also planned.
- The SIDS partnership platform has been expanded and adapted and will serve as a key tool for monitoring and reporting on progress toward implementation.
- The relevant Offices and Divisions in DESA have been directed to further strengthen DESA's technical and capacity building support to SIDS. DESA's ongoing collaboration with UN system organizations and with SIDS regional organisations will be intensified.
- As the Secretariat Department responsible for the substantive support to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Political Forum, and the ongoing process for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the Financing for Development Conference, DESA will support Member States as they incorporate SIDS priorities and aspirations in intergovernmental deliberations and decisions.
- DESA will also continue to provide annual reporting to the relevant bodies on progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of action, the Mauritius Strategy and the SAMOA Pathway.

“My Department is ready to do its part, both through its own advisory services, its normative and analytical work, and through its coordinating role in rallying UN system-wide support,” said Mr Wu.

“Samoa will never be the same again”

“Samoa will never be the same again,” said Ambassador Elisia at the end of the meeting, “because we invited 3000 delegates, and at the end we had to say good-bye to 3000 genuine friends and partners of Samoa.”

The stock-taking meeting was chaired by ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik and attended by the Under-Secretary-Generals of DESA and OHRLS, the Permanent Representative of Samoa, Co-Chairs of the various partnerships dialogues of the SIDS Conference, other representatives of Member States, and Major Groups.

For more information: [SIDS outcome press release](#)

Secretary-General's High-level Group discusses sustainable transport

An informal meeting of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport took place on



Wednesday 24 September. The aim of the Advisory Group, established in August 2014, is to promote accelerated implementation of sustainable transport, aligned closely with inclusive and equitable growth, social

development, protection of the global environment and ecosystems, and addressing climate change.

The Group will work with Governments, transport providers, businesses, financial institutions, civil society and other stakeholders to promote sustainable transport systems and their integration into development strategies and policies, including in climate action. The range of transport providers it will work with includes aviation, marine, ferry, rail, road and urban public transport.

UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo welcomed the members that attended the informal meeting and expressed his and the Secretary-General's deep appreciation for their acceptance to serve on the Advisory Group.

“Transport and mobility are essential preconditions for sustainable development,” said the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development and Executive Secretary of the Advisory Group, who briefed it on sustainable transport challenges and opportunities. “Adequate transport infrastructure and affordable transport services facilitate access to education, social services, jobs and export markets,” he said, also highlighting that “they contribute to economic and productivity growth.”

But safe and affordable transport services are still widely lacking in many developing countries, in particular in rural areas. Increased urbanization and motorization have resulted in unprecedented congestion, wasteful energy use, increased motor vehicle emissions, road safety issues, and deteriorating urban air quality in cities, with serious negative impacts on public health, living conditions and climate change.

The members of the group exchanged views on its priority areas and scope of work, highlighting, among other things, the social

dimension of transport, especially the inequality aspect, and its impact on economy, productivity and the daily lives of people. Urbanization was identified as figuring prominently in meeting the growing challenges of transport. Nouakchott, Mauritania, was cited as an example illustrating the scale and magnitude of the challenges ahead and the urgent need for a new urban policy, new urbanization and in that context sustainable transport.

Members agreed that given its broad social, economic and environmental dimensions, its increasing share of CO2 emissions, and the importance of intermodal transport, transport must be addressed through a holistic, integrated and balanced approach at the strategic level. They also agreed that the Group should keep an open mind and be ready to work at several levels and across sectors, engaging multi-stakeholders.

To achieve sustainable transport, society would need nothing less than a real paradigm shift, committed to changing unsustainable consumption patterns and consumer culture and behaviour.

Members recognized the value of the Group's diversity, with constituting members from the public and private sectors, governments and local authorities, civil society, as well as representatives from different modes of transportation. This unique combination brings together different expertise, knowledge and experience, which enables sharing of ideas, outreach and engagement with a wide network of actors at international, national and local levels.

To accomplish its aims, the Advisory Group will provide a global message and recommendations on sustainable transport, including on innovative policy and multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable transport; launch a "Global Transport Outlook Report" to provide analytical support for these recommendations; and help mobilize action and initiatives in support of sustainable transport among key actors. These actors include Member States, development finance institutions, bilateral development partners, transport providers, urban authorities and land-use planners.

For more information:

[Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport](#)

Trends and Analysis

Indicators to track violence against women



UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing the 8th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) in Aguascalientes, Mexico on 2 November.

The meeting will bring together representatives from national statistics offices, international agencies, Regional Commissions and other experts to discuss specific gender statistics initiatives and issues.

It will cover the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS), proposed headline indicators on violence against women, the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) initiative, and an update on the work of the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues.

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

Monitoring equality and women's empowerment



UN DESA's Statistics Division and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) are organising the 5th Global Forum on Gender Statistics under the Global Gender Statistics Programme and the guidance of the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS).

The Forum will be held in Aguascalientes, Mexico on 3-5 November, and will serve as a platform to review methods and

data (including innovative approaches/initiatives) to measure and monitor gender equality and women's empowerment in the following thematic "pillars": women and the economy; violence against women; time use; political participation; the environment; and women in armed conflicts. The Forum will also cover recent initiatives focused on how to fill in gender data gaps.

For more information:
[5th Global Forum on Gender Statistics](#)

Call for inputs to Global Sustainable Development Report



Scientists, researchers and UN staff members have the opportunity to provide inputs for the 2015 edition of the Global Sustainable Development Report. They are invited to submit briefs that highlight research findings or solutions relating to sustainable development, for the attention of policy makers. One chapter of the 2015 Report will be dedicated to these contributions.

"The Report aims to make the findings of a wide range of scientific assessments available to the deliberations of the new High-level Political Forum and beyond. It does not ask participating scientists to make normative policy recommendations, but aims to make the evidence-base provided by science available to decision-makers," said UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo at the presentation of the prototype Global Sustainable Development Report at the second session of the High Level Political Forum in 2014.

The Global Sustainable Development Report is a United Nations publication that seeks to bring together the range of existing assessments of sustainable development and review global progress and future pathways in an integrated way, taking into account the perspectives of scientific communities across the globe. "The Report is envisaged as one instrument of the newly created High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development that can help strengthen the science-policy interface," said Mr Wu.

Going forward, more extensive inputs will be sought from the UN system, including the Regional Commissions, government officials and stakeholders at all levels, including representatives

of academies of sciences, of key international assessments, and relevant UN expert groups. The 2015 edition of the report will be submitted to the third session of the High-level Political Forum in June 2015.

For more information:

[Global Sustainable Development Report](#)

Recommendations for technology cooperation



At Rio+20, Member States highlighted that technological facilitation is crucial for sustainable development. The General Assembly subsequently held four one-day structured dialogues to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to

promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

The General Assembly President convened the four dialogues on 29 and 30 April, 4 June and 23 July in New York. During the preceding year, the GA also held four workshops to discuss options for technology facilitation in support of sustainable development.

“Developing and disseminating clean and environmentally sound technologies are central to the success of the post-2015 development agenda,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the opening of this year’s first dialogue. “All countries will need appropriate technologies and know-how to support inclusive economic growth while moving away from unsustainable consumption and production,” he said, while also noting that “the scale of efforts is yet to match the scale of the challenge.”

Among other things, the dialogues resulted in recommendations on the possible modalities and organization of a technology facilitation mechanism. These were presented by the two co-moderators of the dialogues, Ambassador Paul Seger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN, and Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN, in a report circulated by the President of the 68th session of the General Assembly, Ambassador John Ashe in August.

Based on the four dialogues, the co-moderators make a number of suggestions for the way forward. They recommend developing an

online platform to undertake a thorough mapping of existing technology facilitation mechanisms, frameworks and processes for clean and environmentally sound technologies.

They also propose improving the coordination within the UN system on these issues. Better use could be made of existing UN infrastructures through increased coherence and synergies among technology transfer initiatives, programmes and mechanisms already operating within the UN system and under Rio Conventions.

An analysis of technology needs and gaps in addressing them is also advised, as are continuing discussions regarding a number of other issues raised in the dialogues, which are outlined in the report.

Next steps

The summary and recommendations from the four dialogues have been submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and appropriate action and the Secretary-General has been requested to consider them in his Synthesis Report. The outcome of these structured Dialogues is intended to inform the General Assembly on options for a technology facilitation mechanism in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

For more information:

[General Assembly Structured Dialogues](#)

Enhancing capacities to promote e-governance



Over 1,000 participants from 79 countries took part in the 2014 Global E-Government Forum, which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 6 to 8 October.

Organized by UN DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) in partnership with the Agency for Communication and Information of Kazakhstan, the Forum focused on “Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Opportunities for Partnerships in the Networked Society”.

The ultimate goal was to enhance government capacity in promoting e-governance, particularly in developing countries, through presentations, discussions, and peer-to-peer learning. The Forum was composed of plenary sessions and four parallel

workshops, as well as a Ministerial Round Table, and Study Tours. Seventy speakers from over 25 countries shared their knowledge throughout the various sessions of the Forum.

Innovation and smart governance as key enablers of sustainable development

The Forum was opened by the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. Karim Massimov, and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wu Hongbo. “As we continue our journey to a post-2015 era, we recognize the tremendous potential of e-government as a key enabler of sustainable development,” Mr. Wu stated in his opening remarks. “At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, a global consensus was reached that to achieve sustainable development we need institutions at all levels that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic. E-government contributes to sustainable development by increasing the efficiency of public service delivery, by enabling broader stakeholder involvement, and by transforming the public sector with more information sharing and open government,” Mr. Wu said.

The Forum addressed emerging issues and trends, such as Smart Governance, Networked Society, Open Government, Open Data and Social Media. Participants highlighted that the concept of Smart Governance is leading to a paradigm shift in the relationship between governments, the private sector and citizens since greater transparency, openness, access to information, which is enhanced by the use of ICTs, provide citizens with more power and thus a greater voice in the development of e-services, e-content, e-participation and open government.

Building capacity of Member States in the area of e-government development

The Forum helped raise government officials’ awareness of new e-government trends and issues, including cutting-edge technologies and innovative practices to address complex governance challenges. Government representatives and experts from around the world shared their insights and lessons learned on how to promote smart governance.

A Ministerial Round Table, which was held on 7 October, provided an opportunity for high-level representatives to share and discuss their views on how to promote smart governance for sustainable development. During the discussions the Ministers from different regions highlighted the importance of expanding the role of e-government to deliver better services, engage citizens and become more transparent and accountable.

Four parallel capacity development workshops provided a platform for the exchange of ideas and practices as follows: Capacity-building Workshop on “Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Partnerships in a Networked Society”

organized by EGB/DPADM; Capacity-building workshop organized by the Government of Kazakhstan on Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Possibilities of Partnership in a Networked Society; International Scientific-Practical Conference “Smart Government: Science and Technology” organized by *Scientific Academia*; National Capacity Building Workshop on “Developing Capacity for e-Participation: Engaging Citizens in Development Policy and Decision-making Processes through Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)” organized by DMB/DPADM.

Recognizing Excellence in E-Government Development: 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey Special Awards

During the second day of the Forum, the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey Special Awards Ceremony was held in recognition of the contribution of winning countries to e-government development. The United Nations E-Government Survey Special Award is given to countries that have proven leadership in the field of E-Government based on the Survey’s E-Government Development Index.

The top three best global performers based on the 2014 E-Government Development Index are *Republic of Korea*, who has retained the top spot with its continued leadership and focus on e-government innovation followed by *Australia* (2nd) and *Singapore* (3rd) who have both increased considerably over their 2012 global rankings. *Bahrain, Japan and Spain* have achieved outstanding progress in e-government among the top 20 (by alphabetical order).

In terms of regional rankings, Europe, led by *France*, continues to portray the highest regional E-Government Development Index. In the Americas, the *United States of America* has the highest regional E-Government Development Ranking; in Asia the top country is the *Republic of Korea*; in Oceania the top country is *Australia* and in Africa *Tunisia* has achieved the highest ranking.

The *Republic of Korea* and the *Netherlands* have demonstrated the highest ranking in the E-Participation Index followed by *Uruguay*. With regard to the highest e-government ranking in special country groups, *Kazakhstan* has achieved the highest ranking in the E-Government Development Index among the Land-locked Developing Countries; *Singapore* among the Small Island Developing States and *Rwanda* among the Least Developed Countries.

About the UN E-Government Survey

DPADM publishes the *United Nations E-Government Survey* every two years. It is the only report in the world that assesses the e-government readiness of the 193 Member States of the

United Nations according to the E-Government Development Index (EGDI), which is a quantitative composite index of e-readiness based on website assessment, telecommunication infrastructure, and human resource endowment.

The Survey serves as a tool for decision-makers to identify their areas of strength and challenges. By studying broad patterns of e-government around the world, the report identifies leading countries in e-government development. It also includes innovative practices and policy options for those that have yet to take advantage of the transformative power of e-government. The *2014 UN e-Government Survey* entitled “E-Government for the Future We Want” is available on the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN).

For more information:

[2014 Global E-Government Forum](#)

Capacity development

Producing international trade statistics



International trade, including foreign direct investment, is widely recognized as a driver of economic growth connecting businesses from many economies around the world. Focusing on the topic of international trade statistics, a regional

seminar will be held in New Delhi, India, on 3-6 November.

If we talk about trade, the discussion is no longer just a discussion about how we exchange transactions on a bilateral basis, but is more and more a discussion about how our economy fits with other economies into global value chains. The discussion is no longer just about who our direct partners are in the value chain, but also about those partners, who are at the beginning and at the end of the global value chains, and who may exercise a certain control over its processes.

The objective of the seminar is to improve the understanding of the recommendations for trade statistics and to share experiences on how to improve the implementation in national statistical systems with better coordination and cooperation among data providers and compilers.

The ultimate goal is to produce the highest quality of international trade statistics, which are relevant for the policy makers at home and which are also comparable at the regional and international levels. The seminar strives to achieve this by (i) clarification and elaboration of a number of more difficult conceptual issues and (ii) identification of good practices in the implementation of the international recommendations.

The seminar is intended for official statisticians from national statistical offices, central banks and ministries. One of the goals of seminar is to bring these communities of statisticians closer together both nationally and internationally. Within the framework of Integrated Economic Statistics, it is necessary for national stakeholders to establish good communication channels to collaborate in finding solutions for measurement problems and streamline the production of statistics.

At the practical side, the central bank and the statistical office need to work together to produce high-quality trade and balance of payment statistics for evidence-based policy making.

This meeting will be organized by UN DESA's Statistics Division, the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Central Statistical Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India in cooperation with EU-ASEAN COMPASS project.

For more information:

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

Promoting the implementation of the CRPD in Africa



The development account project "Building capacities of Governments to mainstream disability in Africa to promote implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" is moving

towards the end in December. Several final activities are scheduled to take place in November in the pilot countries.

The main activity of the project is the production of a Toolkit on Disabilities in Africa to be used to train policy makers, local administrators and operators to enhance the implementation of the CRPD in Africa, in collaboration with four African countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia – and with OHCHR, ECA and African Union.

After completion and validation of the Toolkit during a workshop held in Addis Ababa on 5-7 August 2014, the final activities planned by the project are national training-of-trainers workshops to be held in the pilot countries on 11 – 14 and 18 – 21 November, 2014. Duty of the participants to the t-o-t workshop will be the dissemination of disability issues at national and local level, to government officials, DPOs and civil society in general using the Toolkit on Disabilities in Africa.

For more information:

[United Nations Enable](#)

[UN DESA's Social Policy and Development Division](#)

Building capacity to use trade-related international support measures



Geneva on 17 – 24 November.

Building institutional capacity in the use of trade-related International Support Measures (ISMs) in LDCs will be in focus for capacity building workshops to review project outcomes and design implementation strategies to be held in

As the organization mandated to assist the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) in the identification of LDCs, UN DESA advises LDC governments on issues related to LDC-specific international support measures (ISMs). Over the recent years, the department has built up a broad knowledge base on support measures and has become one of the lead entities working on the identification and analysis of these measures.

Past capacity development activities have led to the establishment of a dedicated online presence cataloguing all LDC-specific ISMs. More recently, UN DESA's work has focused on the institutional constraints experienced by four pilot countries (the Gambia, Lesotho, Nepal and Uganda) in accessing trade-related support measures. These measures are difficult to access due to their complexity and being dispersed across a range of development and trading partners. A number of workshop meetings in Geneva are organised to discuss the findings of recent project activities and to plan for implementation.

Survey results in the pilot countries demonstrate that countries often need to improve inter-ministerial coordination as well as linkages with the private sector, in particular with respect to accessing support on issues related to Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) requirements.

A key problem for accessing support on SPS and TBT requirements starts with the lack of reliable and accurate information. The activities during the workshop will discuss how the establishment of electronic tools can assist private sector stakeholders in the pilot countries to access information on new and changing export requirements related to SPS and TBT measures introduced by trading partners.

In addition, the meetings will also focus on the implementation of other capacity development priorities identified under the project and on discussing the detailed project implementation plans for Lesotho and Nepal which only recently started with the implementation of project activities. Furthermore, on Tuesday 18

November the interim project results will be presented to the LDC Group at the WTO Secretariat.

The workshops will count on the participation from the public and private sectors of LDCs and the expertise from international organisations such as the ACP-EU TBT Programme, the Enhanced Integrated Framework Secretariat, ITC, the Standards and Trade Development Facility, UNDP and bilateral partners.

For more information:

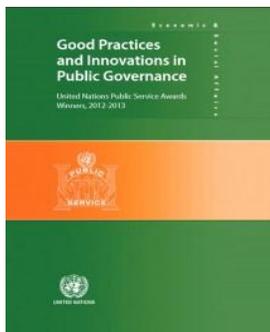
[Committee for Development Policy \(CDP\)](#)

[Support Measures Portal for LDCs](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

Good Practices and Innovations in Public Governance



This new report, available through the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN), provides an overview of 145 successful innovations in governance and public administration from 50 countries that received the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA).

The compendium of “Good Practices and Innovations in Public Governance”

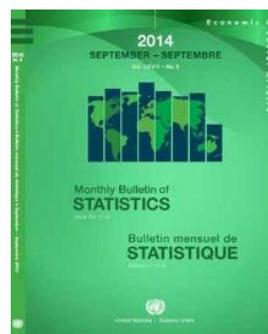
gives an overview of the UNPSA Programme and provides a description and brief analysis of the UNPSA Winners from 2012 and 2013. The success stories from the winners are presented following a precise scheme that highlights the problems, the solutions and the impacts of the initiatives. The compendium further underlines that by looking at the nature and content of the innovations which won the 2012 and 2013 United Nations Public Service Awards, one important aspect has become evident; innovations are taking place in public sector institutions and specifically within in areas which are directly linked to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development.

The underling purpose of the publication is knowledge sharing and lessons learned about how public institutions from around the world have deployed innovative governance solutions. The successful programs have been an inspirational tool for those engaged in improving public sector performance.

- [To download](#)

Statistical compilations

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world. It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or bimonthly, quarterly and annual data on a variety of subjects illustrating important economic trends and developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

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In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly and annual tables: Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex; Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value, volume indices and value; Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value; Exports by commodity classes and by regions: developed economies; and Selected series of world statistics.

- [For more information](#)

Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 3

The publication is an international standard on the design and operation of an efficient and accurate vital statistics system at national level. It provides guidelines on collection, compiling and disseminating vital statistics. More specifically it contains (a) basic principles for a vital statistics system; (b) uses of vital statistics and civil registration records; (c) topics to be covered in a vital statistics system; (d) sources of vital statistics and how they function; (e) quality assurance in the vital statistics system

and (f) strategies in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in countries.

The publication is prepared for National Statistical Offices and civil registrars to assist them with their daily work on registering vital events, and on compiling and disseminating vital statistics. It also informs policy makers and the general public on the importance of vital statistics and hence further improving the vital statistics system.

- [To download](#)

2011 Energy Statistics Yearbook

The Yearbook is the fifty-fifth issue in a series of annual compilations of internationally comparable statistics summarizing world energy trends. Annual data for 224 countries and areas for the period 2008 to 2011 are presented on production, trade and consumption of energy: solids, liquids, gaseous fuels and electricity.

In addition, per capita consumption series are also provided for all energy products. Graphs are included to illustrate historic trends and/or changes in composition of production and/or consumption of major energy products. Special tables of interest include: international trade tables for coal, crude petroleum and natural gas by partner countries – providing information on the direction of trade; selected series of statistics on renewables and wastes; refinery distillation capacity and selected energy resources.

- [For more information](#)

The Demographic Yearbook (DYB) Special Issue on Economic Characteristics

UN DESA's Statistics Division has published the Tabulations of the DYB Special issue on Economic Characteristics. It contains the available economic characteristics data reported by the national statistical authorities to the Demographic Yearbook system, based on the population censuses conducted worldwide during the 2000 and 2010 rounds of censuses (1995 to present).

In particular, the tabulations present information on: (i) population by activity status, age, sex, and urban/rural residence; (ii) employed population by several characteristics such as status in employment, industry (ISIC), occupation (ISCO), age, sex and marital status; and (iii) population not economically active by functional category, age and sex.

These tabulations are available at:

[Demographic Yearbook](#)

[Demographic Yearbook – Tabulations on economic characteristics – data from 2000 and 2010 rounds of censuses](#)

Meetings records

TST issues briefs



This document is a compilation of issues briefs produced by the United Nations Technical Support Team in support of the General Assembly Open Working Group.

The Technical Support Team was established pursuant to paragraph 249 of the Rio+20 outcome document, the Future We Want. The TST is co-chaired by UN DESA and UNDP, with more than 40 entities

from the United Nations system as members.

- [To download](#)

Outreach material

Youth Flash Newsletter

Published by UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth, the October issue puts spotlight on youth delegates at the 69th Session of the General Assembly. The newsletter is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

Sustainable Development in Action, Volume 2, Issue 9

The October issue of Sustainable Development in Action, published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, is available online featuring articles on: Transport and mobility essential for sustainable development; Recommendations for technology cooperation; Actions for SAMOA Pathway already underway; and General Assembly's Second Committee discusses sustainable development.

- [Read full issue](#)

DESA NGO News

The latest issue 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 newsletter is published by UN DESA's NGO Branch.

- [Read full issue](#)

Working Papers

Towards a sustainable social model: Implications for the post-2015 agenda

Implementation of the Agenda 21 bifurcated into two tracks. While the economic and social development agenda gelled into the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the environmental protection agenda moved along a different track, represented by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), etc. This bifurcation also led to very different "domain configurations." While there were some advantages of this bifurcation, it led to a conflict between the human development and the environmental goals. This paper presents a framework for bringing environment and development together in the post-2015 development agenda.

- [To download](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 71

Prepared by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the October issue states that the dollar has appreciated by about 10 per cent against the euro in the past three months and 9 per cent against the Japanese yen, while Western European economy continues to struggle. The briefing also examines the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, which has disrupted trade and work in the crucial agricultural sector in the region.

- [To download](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in October:

Madhushree Chatterjee, Principal Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

M. I. Cobos-Hernandez, Statistician, Statistics Division

Annette Becker, Statistics Assistant, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Maria Victoria Panghulan, Administrative Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Calendar

November

8th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS)

2 November, Aguascalientes, Mexico

Global Forum on Gender Statistics

3-5 November, Aguascalientes, Mexico

Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics

3-6 November, New Delhi, India

Second Committee of the General Assembly

7 October, December, New York

Third Committee of the General Assembly

7 October – December, New York

ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meeting

17-18 November, New York

Capacity building workshops to review project outcomes and design implementation strategies

17-24 November, Geneva

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.