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Seven billionth world citizen soon to be born

In just a few weeks, a baby who will be the 7 billionth inhabitant of planet Earth will be born. In view of this milestone, DESA News interviewed Hania Zlotnik, who heads UN DESA's Population Division, the unit in charge of preparing the official UN population projections that provide the basis for estimating the day when the world population will cross the 7 billion mark.



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is commemorating this event by leading the “7 Billion Actions” campaign which will culminate on “7 Billion Day” on 31 October. The campaign spotlights both the challenges and opportunities that the large current population of the world entails. The latter revolve around the 1.7 billion young people aged 15 to 29, whose energy and fresh ideas will contribute to shape the world's future and the increasingly well trained population of women and girls whose opportunities for learning, working and having a say in their countries' future are on the rise.

Behind the scenes, producing all the data on which the campaign relies, is the team of six demographers working for the Population Estimates and Projections Section of the Population Division. On 3 May, the Division released the 2010 Revision of World Population Prospects, whose medium variant projects a world population of 9 billion in 2043 and 10 billion in 2083.

DESA News met with Hania Zlotnik at the Population Division, which she has led as Director since 2005 and where she has worked for close to 30 years in demographic research. Our discussion focused mainly on the different challenges posed by an ever growing population. “There is still considerable uncertainty about what the future population of the world will be. Although the speed of population growth has declined markedly since it peaked in the late 1960s, it is still too high, suggesting that it is still possible for the population to keep on adding a billion every 12 to 13 years as it has done over the past 25 years unless fertility decline accelerates in the countries where fertility remains high,” she said.

Ms. Zlotnik explains that the decline in mortality during the 20th century is one of the reasons behind the rapid population growth experienced since 1950. At the same time, she also highlights that fertility started declining in the 1970s and that population growth has been dropping, so that population today is lower than it might have been.

Fertility needs to decline further

Given that the world now has a large number of young people, Hania Zlotnik notes that it is very important for the future of humanity that the young people of today have on average fewer children than their parents did, especially because they expect to live much longer than their parents.

According to Ms. Zlotnik, the world today has three groups of countries. Those having low fertility, where people are having so few children that the population is expected to decline in the future, account for 42 per cent of the world population. They include nearly all countries in Europe but also several in the developing world, such as China, Brazil, Thailand and Tunisia.

Then there are the countries where fertility is such that each generation gives rise to another generation that is at most half as big as the first. They account for 40 per cent of the world population and belong to the group of intermediate-fertility countries. The remaining 18 per cent of the world population lives in high-fertility countries, where successive generations are increasing by well over 50 per cent. Most least developed countries have high fertility.

“The potential for continued population growth is particularly marked in the high-fertility countries. Because the low-fertility countries as a group are projected to see their populations decline at some point in the future, all the population growth expected by 2100 is generated by the high and the intermediate-fertility countries”, adds Hania Zlotnik.

So far, fertility has declined markedly in over 80 per cent of the world population. The question is whether it will do so also in the 18 per cent that is lagging behind and if the intermediate-fertility countries will emulate those populations that have today fewer than two children per woman. The medium variant of the UN population projections assumes that in both cases fertility will drop to levels close to those of low-fertility countries by the second half of this century, which result in a world population of 10.1 billion in 2100.

Close ties to the MDGs

To be able to achieve the projected reductions of fertility, three courses of action need to be pursued with urgency. Women have to have easy access to effective contraceptive methods so that they are able to have children when they want and to have the number of children that they and their partners want. Because education empowers people to make decisions and acquire the means to realize them, the drive to ensure universal education is also

beneficial in this regard. Lastly, it is crucial to empower women in other aspects of life so that they have opportunities and options beyond marriage and childbearing.

“That is why population outcomes are so intimately tied to success in achieving the MDGs, which include the reduction of the unmet need for contraception, the achievement of universal education, particularly among girls, and the empowerment of women” says Ms. Zlotnik. In addition, several of the health-related MDGs are easier to attain if women have fewer children and extend the intervals between pregnancies.

“We know that if women have children at intervals of three years or more, both women and children fare better. There’s clear evidence that both child and maternal mortality are higher the closer the pregnancies, because women’s bodies do not have time to recover from one pregnancy before they have another and they cannot provide enough care to a small child when a new baby arrives.” Another relevant measure is postponing marriage. “We know that in the areas where adolescent fertility is very high, it is because marriage occurs early.”

Hania Zlotnik points out that the changes involved in reducing fertility are good in themselves because they improve the lives of women, their children and their families. But they are also important in the efforts to reduce population growth.

Importance of supportive governments

Ms. Zlotnik also stresses the importance of supportive governments who are ultimately responsible for strengthening health care systems, making contraceptives available and taking the lead in changing norms about childbearing and child rearing. She highlights the case of Bangladesh, one of the least developed countries, where despite the many challenges it faces, fertility has been reduced by two-thirds since the 1960s. “The Government of Bangladesh established a core group of women to visit women at home, especially when they had just delivered their babies, to talk with them about how to take care of their babies and also about the spacing between their children. These visiting women were trained to offer information and advice about contraceptive methods and to distribute contraceptive supplies. That is how they achieved important increases in contraceptive use among women who were largely illiterate and with low levels of empowerment.”

Hania Zlotnik noted that the number of children under 15 in the least developed countries would have been 22 per cent lower today if they had achieved the same fertility reduction as Bangladesh. That is, by reducing fertility in the past, the least developed countries as a whole would be in a better position today to invest more per child and improve the human capital of future generations.

Ecological constraints on the rise

It is the poorest populations that lack access to services and to the support networks that would otherwise enable them to act in a way consistent with the decisions they would like to make about their lives. Ms. Zlotnik adds that there are other challenges exacerbated by population growth, “especially for the poor who are bearing the brunt of the ecological constraints that the world system is beginning to experience.”

The ecological limitations are not necessarily linked directly to population, she clarifies, but they have become more evident as a result of the recent global crises, which have resulted in increasing food prices and food scarcity in some countries. These developments further underscore the need to reduce fertility rates, so as to increase the degrees of freedom that low-income countries have to assist those in need.

As Hania Zlotnik points out, “if their populations were to grow more slowly, they would find it easier to cope with existing constraints.” Despite these challenges, Ms. Zlotnik also highlights the positive aspects of welcoming the seven billionth inhabitant of planet Earth. “We can celebrate that even as the population reaches seven billion, more people are living better today than ever before in human history. That is a success story.”

For more information:

2010 Revision of the World Population Prospects:
<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>

UN DESA’s Population Division:
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm>

World Fertility Policies 2011:
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/worldfertilitypolicies2011/wfpolicies2011.html>

7 Billion Actions Campaign:
<http://7billionactions.org/>

Building a better world with cooperatives

Over one billion people are members of cooperatives, a serious enterprise model that puts people at the heart of all business. Owned and controlled by the members they serve, they are great tools for empowering people. On 31 October, the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 will be launched at the UN in New York, setting off initiatives and events across the globe.



“Cooperative enterprises are built on collective action and the principle of participation. They embody the ideal that by working together, we can accomplish more than going it alone. This approach to social and economic enterprise is a good model for the inclusive society that DESA and the United Nations is working to help build,” said Sha Zukang, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General, earlier this year as preparations were made prior to the launch.

With the theme “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World“, the International Year of Cooperatives seeks to promote growth and the creation of cooperatives worldwide. It will also encourage individuals, communities and governments to acknowledge the role cooperatives play in helping to achieve internationally agreed upon development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has underscored their significance by stating: “Cooperatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility.”

Generating employment and reducing poverty

It is estimated that cooperatives account for more than 100 million jobs around the world according to statistics from 2009. Agricultural cooperatives also play a significant role in food production and distribution, thereby promoting food security and rural development. In India alone, some 150,000 primary

agricultural and credit cooperatives serve more than 157 million agricultural/rural producers.

The upcoming year is intended to raise public awareness of how cooperatives contribute to poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration. In connection with the International Day of Cooperatives on 2 July, the Secretary-General further emphasized their importance: “Through their distinctive focus on values, cooperatives have proven themselves a resilient and viable business model that can prosper even during difficult times. This success has helped prevent many families and communities from sliding into poverty.”

Importance for youth and sustainable development

The Secretary-General has also underscored the opportunities that cooperatives offer young people, saying that this model “enables young people to create and manage sustainable enterprises.” He has further invited young people “to explore the benefits of pursuing cooperative enterprise and other forms of social entrepreneurship,” as well as encouraged the community of cooperatives “to engage with youth, in a spirit of dialogue and mutual understanding. Let us recognize young women and men as valuable partners in strengthening the cooperative movement and in sustaining the role of cooperatives in social and economic development.”

Cooperatives are also recognized for their contributions when it comes to sustainable development and the strive towards a more environmentally healthy planet. The cooperative community, through the International Co-operative Alliance among others, has for instance taken actions to increase awareness on issues including renewable energy and climate change.

Events marking the launch

In just a few weeks, the event marking the start of the year highlighting the role of cooperatives around the world will be kicked off by the UN General Assembly in New York. UN DESA is leading the preparations in collaboration with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC).

Member States, observers, organizations of the UN system, Cooperatives and NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are all invited to participate in the activities that will be arranged in and around UN headquarters during two days.

To enable interactive discussions among the various stakeholders, a roundtable discussion will be held on 31 October, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, on the theme “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World: Contributions to Sustainable Development”.

The official ceremony will thereafter take place at 3:00 pm in a plenary session of the General Assembly. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the President of the General Assembly Nassir

Abdulaziz Al-Nasser will then launch the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC).

Following these events, the spotlight will remain on the invaluable involvement of cooperatives worldwide, putting people at the heart of business.

For more information:

IYC Global Launch on 31 October:

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/global-launch.html>

Details on how Cooperatives and NGOs can participate in the launch event at UN Headquarters in New York:

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/ngosparticipation.html>

International Year of Cooperatives (IYC):

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/>

Closing the Gap

“We cannot afford to leave the poor even further behind,” stated Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as the MDG Gap Task Force report was released on 16 September. Although support has increased significantly since 2000, the report shows that donors need to further intensify their development assistance if we are to attain the MDGs by 2015.



Leaders from rich and poor countries have pledged to work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through efficient resource management, improved political accountability, debt relief and removal of trade barriers. Prepared by the UN MDG Gap Task Force, the report concludes that much more must be done to achieve these goals. Wealthy donor nations in particular need to make good on their commitments. The gap between what was promised, and what has been delivered has to be closed.

Watch the webcast of the MDG Gap Task Force Report official release:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/09/millennium-development-goals-lagging-donor-support-slows-anti-poverty-drive.html>

Read the full report at DESA's website:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/policy/minding-the-gap.html>

Read UN News coverage:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39577&Cr=mdg&Cr1=>

Global Dialogue on Development

People-empowerment for peace, job creation and energy efficiency

A wide range of issues are to be addressed by the Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly, also known as the Second Committee, as it begins its work on 3 October under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN

The agenda of the Second Committee is comprised of 15 different – and wide ranging – agenda items, including eradication of poverty, macroeconomic policy questions, sustainable development, financing for development and globalization and interdependence. The first meeting will feature opening statements by the Chair and DESA's Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang.

The Committee will also address groups of countries in special situations, agricultural development and food security, and the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. There is also one new agenda item during the 66th session, which is entitled "People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model".

In addition to the Committee's agenda, the Chair and the Bureau have indicated that they would like to host six special events during the forthcoming 66th session of the General Assembly, which will be part of the official Second Committee programme. Most of these events would be in the nature of panel discussions during the session on the following six themes:

1. People-empowered development models for sustainable peace;
2. Financing for development;
3. Follow-up to the LDC IV Conference: Integrating its provisions into national plans and policies;
4. Alternative development strategies for job creation;
5. Food and energy security and energy efficiency; and
6. Means of implementation for sustainable development.

The Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination within DESA is currently working with FAO, IFAD, UNIDO, OHRLLS and divisions within the department to coordinate the preparation of these events.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>

"Green Economy and Inclusive Growth"

The Delhi Dialogue will take place on 3-4 October in New Delhi, India

The Government of India and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Secretariat are jointly organizing the Delhi Dialogue on "Green Economy and Inclusive Growth", aiming to support the preparations for Rio+20 by providing a platform for international deliberations on opportunities for a green economy to reinforce countries' poverty eradication and social development agendas, including through enhancing, food security and energy security of the poor. It is expected that a shared vision on these issues would be the main outcome of the meeting.

The meeting will provide an informal forum for an exchange among Ministers, high-level officials, and senior policy advisors, with expert inputs on green economy, social development, food security and energy security. The deliberations will build upon the discussions held in earlier meetings related to Rio+20.

The Dialogue seeks to advance understanding and promote the achievement of consensus on key issues related to green economy and inclusive growth, with a particular focus on how green economy strategies and policies can be integrated with food security and energy security objectives.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/?page=view&nr=320&type=13&menu=23>

Promoting forests' role in green economies

A conference on the Contribution of Forests to a Green Economy will be held in Bonn, Germany on 4-7 October

The meeting is a country-led initiative in support of the UN Forum on Forests by the German Government in preparation for the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). It is being jointly organized by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in collaboration with the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The theme of the meeting builds on the notion that ecological stewardship and economic productivity are not mutually exclusive. Every day, forests contribute substantially to people's

well-being, through food, shelter, medicine and raw materials and support the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people around the world.

The conference will bring together government officials, members of the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests (CPF) and representatives from intergovernmental organizations and major groups. Presentations and panel discussions will focus on the essential role that sustainably managed forests play in ensuring that our planet can continue to meet human needs in the long term.

Discussions will also focus on challenges and opportunities in forest valuation and financing, effective strategies in strengthening commitment to halting deforestation, and forest-related green technologies that increase job creation while ensuring vital forest functions.

Though the principles and concepts for a green economy are still being developed, the meetings will highlight the many benefits of investing in environmentally sound economic activities.

For more information: www.forests-in-a-green-economy.de

Celebrating older persons

The 21st commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons will be held at UN Headquarters on 6 October from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

The half-day event is being organized by the NGO Committee on Aging, in cooperation with DESA, Department of Public Information, UNFPA and UN University. The event is also sponsored by the Governments of Argentina and Qatar. The theme of the Day is *Launch of Madrid Plus 10: The growing opportunities and challenges of global ageing*.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Adriana Fassio, Ministry of Social Affairs, National Direction for Policies for Older Persons, Argentina. Other speakers confirmed so far include representatives of older persons' organizations in Jamaica and the Philippines.

UNFPA will use this event to talk about their publication "State of the World's Older Persons" which will be launched in 2012 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Madrid Plan of Action.

The NGO Briefing of the Department of Public Information will take place on the same day in the morning and cover the issue of the human rights of older persons.

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/index/Ageing/InternationalDayofOlderPersons.aspx>

From poverty to sustainability

The 2011 Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) will be held on 17 October at UN Headquarters in New York, focusing on "From Poverty to Sustainability: People at the Centre of Inclusive Development"

With global attention focused on the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), it is critical to draw attention to the importance of poverty eradication for building sustainable futures for all. People living in poverty face increasingly difficult challenges as climate change, environmental degradation and rising food prices threaten their livelihoods and survival. The path to sustainable development must ensure that people living in poverty are included in decision-making processes, and that concrete action is taken to respond to their needs and demands.

The 2011 IDEP presents an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of people living in poverty and to have their voices heard. It is an occasion to recognize that poor people are at the forefront of the fight against poverty and are critical partners for achieving sustainable development. The objective is to illustrate the important and tangible ways in which people living in poverty can simultaneously protect the sustainability of their environment and break the cycle of poverty, and how these efforts can be supported and scaled up.

In addition to the event in New York, celebrations of the Day are being organized worldwide. Through a resolution adopted in 1992, the General Assembly invited all States to devote the Day to presenting and promoting concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution.

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/index/Poverty/InternationalDayfortheEradicationofPoverty/2011.aspx>

Maximizing impacts of aid

A high-level meeting will be arranged in Luxembourg to address ways to increase development impact of aid on 18-19 October

Some 150 representatives from governments, international and regional organizations, UN system, civil society, academia and the private sector will gather for the high-level symposium of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on "Working together to increase the development impact of aid".

The symposium will reflect how best to effectively mobilize financial flows such as investment, trade and domestic revenues to maximize the development impact of aid. It will thus explore how aid can enable developing countries to mobilize investment and other types of development finance – with the goal to build

their productive capacity and engage on a sustainable development path.

The two-day event is the second of several country-led meetings planned in the run up to the 2012 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), to be held in New York, at the end of June. The DCF will promote development cooperation that makes tangible and concrete contributions towards improving the lives and rights of people, promoting sustainable development, and reducing inequality between and within countries - including between men and women.

The Luxembourg Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Marie-Josée Jacobs will address the meeting on Tuesday, 18 October during the opening of the event where ECOSOC President Lazarous Kapambwe and Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migirom are expected to speak. Liberian Minister of Finance Augustine Ngafuan, and more than 10 ministers as well as Southern and Northern policy-makers will participate.

Amidst efforts to recover from the global financial crisis, the current economic uncertainty and volatility present serious concerns to development cooperation and the achievement of the MDGs. The DCF can help mobilize countries to scale up development cooperation, making it more effective and coherent.

The event will also provide a unique opportunity to further strengthen the voice of developing countries and to promote strong national ownership and leadership in development cooperation. It will be organized around four sessions with panel discussions and interactive dialogue, addressing the following topics:

- How to maximize the development impact of aid: Mobilizing development finance to achieve the MDGs;
- Aid to catalyze domestic and external resources: What have we learned?;
- Enhancing coordination and mutual accountability at country level: How can all actors work better together?
- Key messages from the Luxembourg High-level Symposium from stakeholder consultations and discussions in preparation of the Busan High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in November 2011 in the Republic of Korea, and the preparation for the 2012 Development Cooperation Forum, to be held in July 2012 in New York

The Government of Luxembourg is hosting the meeting. A press conference will be organized at the Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster in Luxembourg at 11:00 am on 18 October.

For more information:

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

Highlighting regional priorities when preparing for Rio+20

Three Rio+20 Regional Preparatory Meetings will take place in October, with the first one in Cairo on 16-17 October; the second in Seoul on 19-20 October; and third in Addis Ababa on 20-25 October

The General Assembly has decided that in preparation for Rio+20, there will be regional preparatory meetings, stressing the importance of having effective preparations at the local, national, regional and international levels by governments in collaboration with the UN system, to ensure high-quality inputs without placing undue strain on Member States.

Regional Preparatory Meeting in the Arab Region, ESCWA and partners

The Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting aims to support Arab preparations for Rio+20 by offering a forum for deliberation and consensus building on a consolidated set of issues and priorities that reflect the Arab vision on the objectives and themes to be addressed at Rio+20. The meeting is organized as a collaborative effort between ESCWA, the League of Arab States and UNEP/Regional Office for West Asia.

Government representatives from the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development are invited to participate in the meeting. Regional organizations engaged in Rio+20 preparations at the Arab regional level are also welcome to participate and share their experiences, including United Nations and League of Arab States specialized agencies, financial institutions, civil society, private sector, and academic institutions.

Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia Pacific Region, ESCAP

The Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will take place at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul. It is being hosted by the Republic of Korea, and organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Asian Development Bank.

The meeting will prepare an Asian and Pacific Statement to the UNCSD, and will also help to build the capacity of regional actors to participate in the global process. It will result in a greater awareness of the unique challenges that face the Asian and Pacific region, the progress made by countries of the region, and the potential contributions from the region to the global debate.

Delegates will review background documents that will cover the progress on implementation of commitments to sustainable development and Asian and Pacific perspectives on the theme of

green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and on the theme of the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Ministerial Segment of the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for Rio+20

The ministerial policy dialogue will comprise three plenary sessions, addressing the objective and themes of Rio+20. Each session will be guided by summary reports on the subjects to be considered. The discussions will be opened by brief presentations on key findings and conclusions, highlighting the main issues arising and recommendations of the expert segments to guide the Ministerial policy dialogue.

For each session, three Ministers will be invited to intervene, taking into account gender and language considerations and geographical representation. Responses will then be invited from one representative of civil society organizations and one representative of the private sector. Following this, the floor will be opened for general discussions.

The Ministerial policy dialogue will address the following issues:

- Progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, and new and emerging challenges;
- Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development; and
- Bridging the implementation gap.

For more information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=26>

Year to highlight roles of cooperatives

On 31 October, the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) will be launched

The UN General Assembly (GA) will launch the International Year of Cooperatives (2012) at the General Assembly Hall on 31 October in New York. DESA is working on preparing for the event together with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC).

The year will be inaugurated by two days of activities in and around the United Nations headquarters in New York, beginning with a roundtable discussion on 31 October, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, on the theme "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World: Contributions to Sustainable Development".

The official ceremony will then take place at 3:00 pm that same day in a General Assembly plenary session, with the UN

Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly formally launching the International Year of Cooperatives.

The Launch aims to increase public awareness about cooperatives and their contributions to socio-economic development and the achievement of the MDGs, and to promote the formation and growth of cooperatives worldwide. Member States, observers, organizations of the United Nations system, Cooperatives and Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the IYC launch.

For more information:

International Year of Cooperatives (IYC):

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/>

IYC Global Launch:

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/global-launch.html>

Details on how Cooperatives and NGOs can attend:

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/ngosparticipation.html>

Cause for persons with disabilities makes great strides

The Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held in New York on 7-9 September

The conference discussed the implementation of the Convention (CRPD), along with other governments, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities. Over 600 attendees participated in this session that was held under the theme: "Enabling Development, Realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through Participation, Employment and International Cooperation." The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in 2006 and came into force in 2008. Currently, there are 104 ratifications of the CRPD and 153 signatories.

The conference was opened by high-level dignitaries and senior UN officials, including the Deputy Secretary-General Asha Rose Migrio. At the opening, Ms. Migrio said, "You and I and millions of others know, that when we respect the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities, we enrich our human family," a common theme that resounded throughout the conference, that enabling and including persons with disabilities in society and development benefits all of humanity.

The event included a high-level segment and a general debate, two roundtables entitled "Realizing the CRPD through international cooperation" and "Ensuring effective and full participation in political and public life", an informal meeting

entitled "Realizing the right to work", as well as an "Interactive dialogue on the implementation of the Convention". During the high level segment, there were more than 60 States inscribed for the speakers' list, including 10 ministerial-level participants.

The first round table on "Realizing the CRPD through international cooperation", discussed key issues concerning article 32 of the CRPD, reaffirming and underlining the important role of international development cooperation in promoting disability-inclusive development and advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. The panel noted that a new aid architecture was emerging at the global level, allowing developing countries to set their own development priorities. The discussion also covered the mainstreaming of disability through enhancing partnerships within private and public sectors and also between the UN and other stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

During the second round table entitled "Ensuring effective and full participation in political and public life", panelists discussed key issues, identified progress and barriers and made strategic recommendations to realize disability-inclusive and accessible political processes including elections. Among the key issues argued was the lack of physical accessibility that continued to remain a major barrier to the full and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in political and public life. Participants noted that a full realization of the CRPD would ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons with psycho-social or intellectual disabilities would not be deprived of their access to the political process.

An informal meeting on "Realizing the right to work and employment" was also held. Panelists noted that persons with disabilities were twice as likely to be unemployed than their peers without disability. They discussed the need for comprehensive reforms to ensure accessible labour markets and noted that a major barrier against a fully inclusive labour market was the lack of firm policy framework against discrimination, without which accessibility would not be enforced; education would not be effectively provided; and job opportunities would not be made available for persons with disabilities.

UN system organizations presented their efforts during the "Interactive dialogue on the implementation of the Convention" and showed how their programmes had been used to implement the CRPD in countries and regions around the world. They highlighted the role played by their organizations in fostering collaboration among national Governments, UN entities and civil society to further the promotion and implementation of the CRPD. UN Regional Commissions also participated via videoconference from Santiago (ECLAC), Jordan (ESCWA) and Addis Ababa (ECA).

In closing, Chair Mårten Grunditz, UN Ambassador to Sweden and Chairman of the conference, stressed that the conference had made clear that universal ratification of the Convention and the Optional Protocol is within reach and indeed a necessity, given that over a billion persons live with a disability in the world. There could be

no progress on internationally agreed development goals without integrating a disability perspective in all development efforts. International cooperation could and must be a catalytic force to make those efforts inclusive. The conference has equally shown that participation of persons with disability in the labour market and in public and political life are essential features of inclusive development. The CRPD will continue to be pivotal to ensure enabling development and enjoyment of human rights by all.

A day prior to the opening of the conference, a Civil Society Forum was organized by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) with the support of DESA, focusing on the planned high level meeting on disability and development to be held next year at the 67th session of the General Assembly.

More than 40 side-events were organized by governments, regional and sub-regional governmental organizations, UN system organizations, academic institutions, international and bi-lateral development agencies, and national human rights institutions, as well as NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1584>

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1571>

Trends and Analysis

Reinforcing International Mutual Accountability

Ongoing efforts to promoting accountability and transparency will be reviewed at the Expert Group Meeting on Global Mutual Accountability taking place in Luxembourg on October 17

Mutual accountability between donor and programme countries is important to hold each other to account on commitments made regarding aid and aid delivery. Mutual accountability at the global level plays an important role to promote progress on implementing such commitments at the country level. An expert group meeting will be held to exchange ideas on this topic and to prepare for the 2012 United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).

The meeting will reflect on how the evidence base for decisions by development cooperation actors at country level might be improved by making better use of global-level monitoring initiatives. The efficiency of existing accountability mechanisms in affecting development cooperation behaviors will also be considered as will be the extent to which independent assessments (e.g. by think tanks) are being recognized by national bodies.

Analysis conducted for the DCF shows that information comparing the performance of provider and recipient countries at global level is not sufficiently used in national mutual accountability forums. It has also been recommended that programme countries agree on clear targets for individual donors, as part of national aid policies, which can then be reviewed against ongoing national development efforts.

If information on compliance with commitments made is to be better shared and understood, it appears important that developing countries are able to choose indicators and to design assessment tools and processes.

This expert group meeting stems from the decision of the 2010 DCF to continue to conduct regular assessments of progress in mutual accountability and aid transparency. The DCF will continue to review progress in mutual accountability, placing an emphasis on Least Developed Countries as they have the most to gain from well managed development initiatives.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunc/pdf/egm_background_note.pdf

Review of MDG monitoring across the globe

The twentieth Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting (IAEG) on MDG Indicators will take place in Manila, Philippines on 17-18 October

The meeting is part of the yearly consultation with national experts and international agencies to review and discuss issues related to the global MDG monitoring. It will focus on identifying technical cooperation needs and defining statistical capacity development strategies to improve MDG monitoring.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#17-18oct2011

With a focus on MDG Statistics

The Second International Conference on MDG Statistics will take place in Manila, Philippines, on 19-21 October

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Philippines National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) is organizing an international conference on Millennium Development Goals statistics. The conference will bring together representatives from national statistical offices, national government agencies, international agencies and civil society to review the MDG monitoring strategies in place and propose recommendations for improved monitoring approaches, aiming at reaching those who are lagging behind in progress towards the MDGs.

For more information:

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Capacity/manila.htm>

High-level event spotlights Geospatial Information Management

The inaugural session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) and the High Level Forum on GGIM will take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 24-26 October

The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, established by ECOSOC on 27 July as the official UN consultative mechanism on GGIM, is convening its inaugural session on 26 October. The meeting will bring together experts from Member States and observers from international organizations to adopt the terms of reference of the Committee, review its rules of procedure and discuss its contribution to the Rio+20 Conference as well as an inventory of critical issues to be addressed by the Committee in future sessions.

Immediately preceding this event, the UN is jointly organizing with the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea, a High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management at the COEX Convention Centre in Seoul on 24-26 October. Arranged for the first time, the Forum will provide an opportunity for in-depth discussions of current critical geospatial information issues and consultations among governments, NGOs and the private sector.

At the opening of the Forum, a Ministerial Segment will be convened in the morning of 24 October. The Under-Secretary-General for DESA Mr. Sha Zukang will deliver the opening address. The Segment will provide a platform for Ministers, representing all the regions of the world, to discuss national policies on geospatial information, to provide direction in evolving common frameworks and methodologies across countries; to promote the use of geospatial information to address key global challenges; and to give guidance on capacity development and enhance technology transfer.

In addition, two thematic side-events will be arranged, namely an 'Exchange Forum with the Geospatial Industry' on 23 October; and a 'Seminar on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information' on 27 October.

For more information: <http://ggim.un.org/>

Challenging corruption to improve public services and attain MDGs

The International Workshop themed "Engaging Citizens to Counter Corruption for Better Public Service Delivery and Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals", will be arranged in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 26-27 October

The Development Management Branch of DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management in cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, is organizing this event. It will be one of several meetings arranged by different UN agencies in the context of the 4th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the UN Convention against Corruption.

The overall conference is expected to be attended by more than 500 persons from around the world. The workshop will take place in the venue of the 4th CoSP, the Palmeraie Golf Palace Complex in Marrakesh and will be attended by approximately 75 corruption prevention and citizens engagement experts and practitioners from around the world. It will address the following issues and themes, along a series of thematic sessions:

- overall approaches, trends, best practices and key challenges in the eradication of corruption in public services;
- concepts and terminology;
- engaging citizens to eradicate corruption: scope of analysis and rationales;
- practices and institutions to engage citizens in the eradication of corruption; initiatives from citizens and civil society organizations, including uses of ICT technologies;
- initiatives from governments, including eGovernment and eParticipation;
- initiatives from the private sector;
- public policy and strategy: building capacities and creating enabling conditions; and
- eradication of corruption in the provision of public services: international cooperation.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1886/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=10/26/2011>

Calls for nominations to reward public service excellence

The UN is calling for nominations for the UN Public Service Awards 2012. This is an international contest designed to promote and support innovations in public service delivery worldwide. Nominations can be made online until 31 December

The award is open to public organizations of all kinds, including governments and public-private partnerships, involved in delivering services to citizens around the globe. An annual UN event, the Public Service Award is bestowed on those public institutions that have distinguished themselves in the following categories: Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Service; Improving the Delivery of Services; Fostering Participation in Policymaking Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms; Advancing Knowledge Management in Government and Promoting Gender-responsive Delivery of Public Services. The award highlights cutting edge innovations and recognizes that democracy and successful governance are built on a competent civil service.

“The United Nations has long recognized that effective governance and efficient public administration are central to the global development agenda, and particularly in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We need sound public policies and supportive governance structures. We need to respond swiftly and coherently”, said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his address to the 2009 United Nations Public Service Day.

The United Nations Public Service Day was established by the Economic and Social Council in 2003 to promote better delivery of services by governments and to encourage excellence in the public service. As Mr. Sha Zukang, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General rightly emphasized during the 2010 United Nations Public Service Awards ceremony held in Barcelona, Spain: “The winners have shown great dedication to upholding the values and virtues of excellent public service and have provided examples of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability. In transmitting their lessons-learned they are assisting all governments in devising ways to improve the lives of citizens everywhere”.

The 2012 Public Service Awards will mark the tenth anniversary of the programme. Selected by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, the winners will receive a trophy and a certificate of recognition during the United Nations Public Service Awards Ceremony and Day on 23 June 2012. The global event is organized by DESA’s Division of Public Administration and Development Management, in partnership with UN Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

While contenders cannot nominate themselves, interested institutions deemed to have very good performance in any one of the prize categories can have their name put forward by Governments or civil society organizations.

In addition to the Public Service Awards, United Nations e-Government Special Awards will be issued at the United Nations Public Service Day. The e-Government Special Awards will recognize the success of each world region by distinguishing the top-ranked countries from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania.

For more information:

Nominations must be made online at (deadline 31 december 2011):
<http://www.unpan.org/applyunpsa2012>

For details about the UN Public Service Awards and past winners:
<http://www.unpan.org/unpsa>

The winners of the UN Public Service Awards from 2003 to 2011 are also available as iPad and iPhone applications at:
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/un-innovations-in-public-governance/id443218537?mt=8#>.

It can be downloaded for free and as an eBook at:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan046119.pdf>.

Realizing the boundless potential of the Internet

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), hosted by the Government of Kenya, was held in Nairobi on 27-30 September

The overall theme was "Internet as a Catalyst for Change: Access, Development, Freedoms and Innovation". This broad theme reflects the outcome of a broad and inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process. It also reflects the mandate of the IGF to develop a common understanding of the best way for all stakeholders to realize the boundless opportunities offered by the Internet.

The meeting was open to all entities accredited by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as well as other institutions and persons with proven expertise and experience in matters related to Internet governance.

For more information:

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/nairobipreparatory>

Capacity Development

Statistics focused on gender

The fifth Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics will be held in New York on 4-6 October

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), aimed at continuing the dialogue on the coordination of gender statistics activities, in light of the conclusions and recommendations made by the 42nd session of the UN Statistical Commission.

It will present the on-going activities of the advisory groups. The resulting recommendations and decisions of the meeting will form the work plan for the IAEG-GS.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#4-6oct2011

Improving capacity to produce economic statistics

Seminar on developing the capacity to produce economic statistics, including national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA, in the Asian and Pacific region, will take place in Bangkok on 10-13 October

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), is organizing this seminar on the implementation of the 2008 SNA. Hosted by ESCAP, the purpose is to develop a clear implementation plan for the improvement of the capacity of countries in the Asian and Pacific region to produce economic statistics including the National Accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA.

The seminar will also discuss ways to ensure that plans for implementing the 2008 SNA and ESCAP's Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific are consistent and mutually reinforcing, effectively incorporating national implementation plans for the 2008 SNA into the regional implementation plan. The expected outcome is consensus among participants on the implementation plan.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#10-13oct2011

Measuring trade patterns and global value chains in East Asia

Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics will be held in Beijing, China on 24-26 October

The seminar will be held as a follow-up to the Global Forum on Trade Statistics which took place in Geneva in February. Policy makers and chief statisticians then made explicit demands to improve the relevance of international trade statistics by connecting and integrating them with other economic statistics.

DESA's Statistics Division in cooperation with the National Bureau of Statistics of China will therefore conduct a regional seminar for countries of Asia, focusing on the implementation of the new recommendations for international trade statistics, which were adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2010, while emphasizing the linking of trade and business statistics. Special attention will be devoted to the issue of the measurement of trade in the global production processes.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/outcome.htm
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/beijing11/default.htm>

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

MDG Gap Task Force Report 2011: The Global Partnership for Development: Time to Deliver



The MDG Gap Task Force Report 2011 released on 16 September, shows that if the MDGs are to be achieved, a serious shortfall in funding must be addressed. It also highlights that significant gaps remain in delivering on the commitments in the areas of aid, trade, debt relief, and access to new technologies and to affordable essential medicines. A number of crucial commitments that were supposed to have been reached by 2010, including increased aid volume, improved aid effectiveness, and the conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, have not been met.

The report monitors the progress made in achieving the targets of MDG 8, including continued attention to the impact of the global crisis on meeting the targets set under MDG 8 and embedding any new commitments resulting from the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the MDGs into the monitoring process.

Download report:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/mdg_gap/index.shtml

2010 Revision of the World Population Prospects

DESA's Population Division has now released the complete data sets of the 2010 Revision of the World Population Prospects. These data are used throughout the UN System, by many international organizations, research centres and the media. According to our estimates and (medium variant) projections, the world population is now close to 7 billion and will reach 10.1 billion in the next ninety years. While the main results of the World Population Prospects have been available on our web site since 3 March 2011, detailed data have now been published in the following electronic formats:

1. Comprehensive Dataset - CD-ROM

This CD-ROM contains population estimates and projections for all countries and major regions of the world in the form of Excel tables. All data are available on the CD-ROM in five-year age groups and five-year estimation and projection intervals. Some

data, such as total population by sex, are also available on the CD-ROM in annual interpolation.

2. Extended Dataset - DVD

The DVD contains population estimates and projections for all countries and major regions of the world in the form of Excel tables and in the form of ASCII-files. The ASCII files are optimized for database input and statistical software. All data on the DVD are available in five-year groups and five year estimation and projection intervals. In addition, population by age and sex is available in annually interpolated form for single years of age. Many other demographic indicators, such as life expectancy at birth or total fertility, are also available in annually interpolated format.

A detailed description of specific data tables on the CD-ROM and the DVD is available on-line in the CD-ROM/DVD order form at:

http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Other-Information/WPP2010_ORDER_FORM.pdf

For methodological background information and data sources, assumptions of the 2010 Revision, interactive tables and maps visualizing demographic trends:

<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>

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 annual and quarterly 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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This month, the following tables, which are featured in the MBS on a quarterly or bimonthly basis, are presented along with the regular recurrent monthly tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials, Earnings in manufacturing, by sex, Total exports and imports by regions: volume and unit value indices and terms of trade.

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs>

Outreach material

Rio+20 Brochure: Building Our Common Future

The newly launched Rio+20 Brochure “Building Our Common Future” gives a comprehensive insight into the issues that will be addressed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012.

This Conference will provide a historic opportunity to define pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all. Taking place twenty years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, where countries adopted Agenda 21, the UN is again bringing together governments, international institutions and major groups to agree on a range of smart measures that can reduce poverty while promoting decent jobs, clean energy and a more sustainable and fair use of resources.

View the brochure:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/Rio20Brochure.pdf>

Rio+20: Making it Happen

The latest issue of the Rio+20: Making it Happen newsletter features the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, which will contribute to the Rio+20 process. Among other related events and issues, the newsletter also highlights the Beijing High-level Symposium on the UN Conference on Sustainable Development's outcome and also features the Rio+20 Bureau's meeting with representatives of International Financial Institutions.

View full issue at:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=40>

United Nations Enable Newsletter

A special edition of the newsletter has been issued covering the period August to September and focusing on the Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties and the Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within DESA, with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as from civil society, this issue also brings attention to upcoming events as well as highlights from the UN System.

View this special issue at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities>

United Nations Youth Flash

The latest issue features Oliver Felix, a Youth Delegate from Switzerland, who shares his experiences on how he became a Youth Delegate, and what it was like to represent his country during the High Level Meeting on Youth in July. It also highlights news from the UN and other international organizations as well as Youth in Action events. The newsletter is a service of the UN Programme on Youth to keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and from youth organisations around the world.

View full issue at:

<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/Youthflash/2011/August.aspx>

DESA NGO News

The latest edition is now available and includes news from the UN General Assembly's General Debate, the General Assembly High-level Meeting marking the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and the annual joint conference of the UN and NGOs in Bonn, Germany, with calls for civil society to encourage people to realize that their local concerns are connected to the larger global issues. The newsletter, which is a monthly service of the DESA NGO Branch of the United Nations, includes a brief summary of news and upcoming intergovernmental meetings of interest to NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status.

View full issue at:

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/lateste.pdf>

Comings and Goings

Comings



Nikhil Seth has been appointed as Director for the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) and Head of the Office of the Conference Secretary-General (CSG) Sha Zukang for the Rio+20 Secretariat effective 1 September.

During his career with the United Nations since 1993, Mr. Seth has served as Special Assistant and Chief of Office to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, as Secretary of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Second Committee of the General Assembly, and, most recently, as Director of the DESA Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC), where he guided the ECOSOC's work in implementing several new key mandates, including its Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Seth served in the Indian diplomatic service, where his assignments included Geneva, DRC, Central African Republic, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, as well as the Permanent Mission of India, New York.

The following staff members were promoted in September:

Elvira Doyle, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Kay Govia, Programme Assistant, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Gabriela Guevara, Associate Administrative Officer, Capacity Development Office

Ching-Hua Hsiung, Budget Assistant, Capacity Development Office

Lissy Joseph, Human Resources Assistant, Capacity Development Office

Alicia Lovell-Squires, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Cristina Rojas-Espinosa, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Nancy Settecasí, Desktop Publishing Assistant, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Goings

The following staff member retired in September:

Maria Luz Aragon, Programme Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Calendar

October

66th session of the General Assembly

- Second Committee
New York, 3 October - December
<http://www.un.org/ga/second/>
- Third Committee
New York, 3 October - December
<http://www.un.org/ga/third/>

Dialogue on “Green Economy and Inclusive Growth”

New Delhi, India, 3-4 October

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/?page=view&nr=320&type=13&menu=23>

The fifth Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

New York, 4-6 October

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#4-6oct2011

Conference on the Contribution of Forests to a Green Economy

Bonn, Germany, 4-7 October

www.forests-in-a-green-economy.de

International Day of Older Persons

6 October

<http://social.un.org/index/Ageing/InternationalDayofOlderPersons.aspx>

Seminar on developing the capacity to produce economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region

Bangkok, Thailand, 10-13 October

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#10-13oct2011

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 October

<http://social.un.org/index/InternationalDays.aspx>

Rio+20 Regional Preparatory Meetings

- Cairo, Egypt, 16-17 October
- Seoul, Republic of Korea, 19-20 October
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-25 October

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=26>

A high-level meeting to address ways to increase development impact of aid

Luxembourg, 18-19 October,

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

Expert Group Meeting on Global Mutual Accountability

Luxembourg, October 17

http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/egm_background_note.pdf

Twentieth Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting (IAEG) on MDG Indicators

Manila, Philippines, 17-18 October

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#17-18oct2011

Second International Conference on MDG Statistics

Manila, Philippines, 19-21 October

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Capacity/manila.htm>

The inaugural session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) and the High Level Forum on GGIM

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 24-26 October

<http://ggim.un.org/>

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters - seventh session

Geneva, Switzerland, 24-28 October

<http://social.un.org/index/InternationalDays.aspx>

Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics

Beijing, China, 24-26 October

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/beijing11/default.htm>

International Workshop themed "Engaging Citizens to Counter Corruption for Better Public Service Delivery and Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals"

Marrakesh, Morocco, 26-27 October

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1886/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=10/26/2011>

Launch of the International Year of Cooperatives (2012)

New York, 31 October

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/launch.shtml>

7 Billion Day

31 October

<http://www.7billionactions.org/about>

November

Expert Group Meeting on “Strategies for Attracting the best talent in the Public Service in Africa”

Crossroads Complex, Lilongwe, 14-18 November

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1984/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=11/14/2011>

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