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## Feature Articles and Webcast

### “Historic Opportunity” for the future of development

*Following on a proposal by the UN Secretary-General, the General Assembly decided to convene the MDG Summit (High-level Plenary Meeting) on 20-22 September 2010, with the primary objective to accelerate progress towards all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.*

The 2010 MDG Summit will see world leaders gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to examine what needs to be done to meet each of the eight MDGs by 2015.

“Our world possesses the knowledge and the resources to achieve the MDGs,” states the Secretary-General in his report preparing for the September summit. However, achieving the MDGs remains a complex global challenge, especially for equal progress to be made across each of the eight goals.

Great progress has been made, but as the 2010 MDG Report indicates, it is not even. The report specifically points out concern for the slow progress in improving maternal health conditions and the development of women and children. These issues will be more thoroughly explored during the summit.

### Making it happen by 2015

The September High-level Meeting will consist of six plenary meetings and six interactive round-table sessions which will be held in concurrence with the plenary meetings. The six roundtable sessions will convene within the framework of “Making it happen by 2015”, with at least fifty seats in each meeting, and co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government.



The six roundtables will specifically address development goals and have been divided into the discussions of the challenge of poverty, hunger and gender equality, meeting the goals of health and education, promoting sustainable development, addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and finally, widening and strengthening partnerships.

## Actors and their roles

According to the Report of the Secretary-General *Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015*, the “MDGs represent a pact, not just among governments, but among all development stakeholders. Each actor must focus on the best use of its assets, acting efficiently, effectively and collectively to fulfil specific roles”.

More specifically, these roles include the need for developing countries to establish policies and institutions to accelerate progress, the importance of civil society actors to ensure government accountability, the help of private business to create work to support the goals as well as private philanthropists to foster innovation. The roles of developed countries are to fulfil commitments and finally, the multilateral system, and especially the UN, needs to improve coherence and effectiveness.

The MDGs are an eight-point road map with measurable targets and clear deadlines for improving the lives of the world's poorest people.

The MDGs also embody basic human rights — the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter and security. The Goals are ambitious but understood to be achievable and, together with the comprehensive United Nations development agenda, the world's efforts to eradicate poverty are feasible.

## Only five years remaining

Five years remain before the 2015 deadline for the achievement of the MDGs, and as the Director of DESA's ECOSOC Support and Coordination Division Nikhil Seth explains, “The Summit provides us with a critically-important occasion to address major and interconnected development challenges and to give the MDGs a final push,” noting the event a “historic opportunity”.

Coming amid mixed progress and new crises that threaten the global effort to halve extreme poverty, “the summit will be a crucially important opportunity to redouble our efforts to meet the Goals,” he said, referring to the targets adopted at the UN Millennium Summit of 2000, aimed at slashing poverty, hunger, disease, maternal and child deaths and other world issues by a 2015 deadline.

“Our challenge today is to agree on an action agenda to achieve the MDGs” Mr. Ban added on the importance to efficiently and effectively utilize the time remaining.

The high-level summit coincides with the launch of the MDG Gap Task Force Report, which again, highlights the year's gaps and trends in MDG progress and provides leaders with areas of focus. The report will be released on 17 September.

It is anticipated that this summit will bring about one of the most significant opportunities yet to ensure development success worldwide with the expectation that world leaders will recommit to promises and accelerate progress. As the Secretary-General urges, “Time is short. We must seize this historic moment to act responsibly and decisively for the common good.”

For more information: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

## Indigenous filmmakers call for greater protection of their people

*“The world's indigenous peoples have preserved a vast amount of humanity's cultural history. Indigenous peoples speak a majority of the world's languages, and have inherited and passed on a wealth of knowledge, artistic forms and religious and cultural traditions. On this International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, we reaffirm our commitment to their well-being”, said Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on 9 August during the observation of the Day.*

This year's observance at UN Headquarters in New York marked the midpoint of the Second International Decade for the World's Indigenous People and focused on indigenous filmmaking. It was organized by the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in cooperation with the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The event featured four short films by indigenous film makers from Sweden, Alaska, Russia and the Caribbean.



The International Day of the World's Indigenous People was first pronounced by the General Assembly in December 1994, to be celebrated every year during the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995 – 2004). In 2004, the Assembly proclaimed a Second International Decade, from 2005 – 2015, with the theme of “A Decade for Action and Dignity”.

A main achievement of the Second Decade was the adoption by the General Assembly in 2007 of the Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous People. This and the Second International Decade has also provided impetus for some governments, such as Japan, Canada and Australia, to recognize the existence and rights of indigenous people and even offer apologies to them for past injustices. Other recent achievements include the creation of consultative institutions for indigenous people and the formation of their own political parties, like in Russia, Nepal and Ecuador.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon stressed that “the landmark UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples lays out a framework for Governments to use in strengthening relationships with indigenous peoples and protecting their human rights”. Since then, more Governments worked to redress social and economic injustices, through legislation and other means, and indigenous peoples’ issues have become more prominent on the international agenda than ever before, he explained.

However Mr. Ban noted that “indigenous peoples - more than 370 million in the world - still experience racism, poor health and disproportionate poverty. In many societies, their languages, religions and cultural traditions are stigmatized and shunned”. He added that in some countries indigenous peoples are 600 times more likely to contract tuberculosis than the general population. In others, an indigenous child can expect to die 20 years before his or her non-indigenous compatriots.

### **The need for recognition**

Under-Secretary-General and coordinator of the decade Mr. Sha Zukang voiced that “the promotion of films, along with other indigenous art forms, is also encouraged and supported by the Declaration and the Second Decade. “These initiatives not only address the social, political and economic rights of indigenous communities. They also draw attention to the need to protect cultural manifestations – in technological, visual and performing art forms”, he said.

Mr Sha added that “these signs of progress are promising. But we must recognize that many objectives of the Second Decade are in danger of going unfulfilled. Most countries have yet to recognize their indigenous communities. International financial institutions and development organizations need to meet with indigenous groups more frequently and more formally”. Nevertheless, he noted that in places where indigenous people do have recognition, their level of direct political participation, particularly for women, is very low.

Mr. Sha announced that an upcoming report of the Secretary-General will present more information about progress and gaps toward fulfilling the goals and objectives of the Declaration and the Second International Decade. The report will be launched this year in time for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

### **Revitalizing traditions and customs**

In a statement read by Assistant-Secretary-General Jomo Kwame Sundaram for the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Carlos Mamari Condori indicates that there are several articles in the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples that confirm their right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. “Films and especially films written, produced and directed by indigenous peoples are perhaps the most expressive medium for communicating messages about who indigenous peoples were, who indigenous peoples are and who indigenous peoples are striving to become”, he said.

Mr. Mamari highlighted the greater demand for indigenous stories from international audiences and explained that “the motivation behind the involvement of indigenous film makers throughout the world in filmmaking, video production and television transmission can be seen as basic issues of self determination and cultural maintenance” and the right to revitalize their traditions and customs.

“Indigenous filmmakers need a lot of encouragement and support... Filmmaking is a very technical process and therefore it is crucial to cultivate indigenous peoples’ talents in areas of development and production around the world,” said the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. He called on governments, intergovernmental organizations, the industry and other relevant actors to strongly support indigenous filmmakers around the world.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/index.html>

## Young talents launched the International Year of Youth

video



Under the theme “Dialogue and Mutual Understanding” the International Year of Youth was kicked off at UN Headquarters on 12 August – the International Day of Youth – and counted with the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and a wide range of performances, videos and exhibitions produced by youth.

“The energy of youth can spark economies....The idealism and creativity of youth are some of the most important resources any country has”, said Mr. Ban. “I urge young people everywhere to look beyond the borders of your own country. Engage with the world. Be a global citizen. Exchange visits and communications across cultures are all building blocks of world peace and mutual understanding”, he added.

Video:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2010/se100812am-orig.rm?start=00:10:00&end=00:17:36> (7 minutes)

Full coverage:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2010/se100812am-orig.rm> (2 hours 18 minutes)

Secretary-General’s message:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2010/sgsm13042.doc.htm>

International Year of Youth website:

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

# Global Dialogue on Development

## Advancing inclusion of persons with disabilities

*States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will gather from 1-3 September in New York for the third time*

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006. Article 40 of the Convention stipulates that “The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.”

The first meeting of States Parties was held on 31 October and 3 November 2008, where the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was formally established and its members elected. The Conference also considered matters related to the Convention, and held a panel discussion on “The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a human rights instrument and a tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals”. The Committee’s membership comprises of 12 independent experts tasked to monitor the implementation of the Convention.

The States Parties to the Convention convened their second conference from 2-4 September. The participants in the conference discussed legislative measures to implement the Convention. Non-governmental organizations participated along with Governments in an informal session on emerging issues related to the global economic crisis, poverty and the implementation of the Convention.

The third session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be held under the theme: “Implementing the Convention through Advancing Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities”, and will begin with the election of members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and include substantive roundtable discussions and an interactive informal session with civil society.

Elections of the members of the Committee will be held in accordance with article 34 of the Convention. As the total number of ratifications has passed 80, the membership of the Committee will increase by six to a total of 18 members. Additional elections will be held for the six members whose term expires in 2010.

Please note that the upcoming election of the members of the Committee is being coordinated and administered by the Office of

the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of Legal Affairs.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1532>

## MDG Summit to precede general debate of the General Assembly’s 65<sup>th</sup> session

*General debate which provides Heads of State and Government the opportunity to express their views on major international issues, gets underway on 23 September in New York*

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, the Summit held on 20-22 September “will be a crucially important opportunity to redouble our efforts to meet the Goals,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon referring to the targets adopted at the UN Millennium Summit of 2000, aimed at slashing poverty, hunger, disease, maternal and child deaths and other ills by the 2015 deadline.

The High-level Plenary Meeting on MDGs will consist of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six interactive round-table sessions to be held in concurrence with plenary meetings regarding several topics: poverty, hunger and gender equality, health and education, promoting sustainable development, addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches, addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable and widening and strengthening partnerships.

The MDG Summit will be followed by the General Debate on the theme “Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance” on 23-25 September and 27-30 where Heads of State and Government will express their views on the theme.

### High-level meeting on Biodiversity

In addition to the MDG Summit, a High-level meeting of the General Assembly as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity will be held on 22 September. The meeting will be chaired by the President of the 65th session of the General Assembly. The panels will be co-chaired by Heads of State and Government at the invitation of the President of the 64th session on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

The President of the General Assembly will prepare a summary of the discussions during the high-level meeting for presentation at the closing plenary meeting and for transmission, under his authority, to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### Mauritius Strategy +5 Review

The Mauritius Strategy +5 Review (Five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States) will be held on 24-25 September.

The review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct a thorough assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and to agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

### **65th session of the General Assembly**

At its 65<sup>th</sup> session, the Assembly will address the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, maintenance of international peace and security, development of Africa, promotion of human rights, justice and international law; effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts, disarmament; drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and other organizational, administrative and other matters.

### **Second and Third Committee**

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) and the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee) will discuss the items on the agenda related to economic questions and social and humanitarian issues, respectively. The Committees seek where possible to harmonize the various approaches of States, and present their recommendations, usually in the form of draft resolutions and decisions, to a plenary meeting of the Assembly for its consideration.

The Assembly's Second Committee – dealing with the economic and financial aspects of development – will convene starting on 4 October. DESA's has planned a number of side events including panel discussion. The Assembly's Third Committee – dealing with social, humanitarian and cultural matters – will also convene on 4 October to discuss items questions relating to advancement of women, youth, ageing, the disabled, humanitarian assistance and related issues.

The Assembly is the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN, a forum for multilateral negotiation. While it is empowered to make only non-binding recommendations to States on international issues within its competence, it has, nevertheless, initiated actions – political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal – which have affected the lives of millions of people throughout the world. The Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, for example, reflected the commitment of Member States to reach goals to achieve development, poverty

eradication, promote the rule of law, meet the special needs of Africa and protect the environment.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/ga/65/index.shtml>

## Trends and Analysis

### Discussing forest management and governance

*Workshop on forest governance and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) in Latin America will be held from 31 August- 3 September in Oaxaca, Mexico*

Organized by the Governments of Mexico and Switzerland and other partners with the support of the United Nations Forum on Forest, the workshop will discuss the relationships among sustainable forest management, forest governance, REDD+ and livelihoods, among other topics.

The Oaxaca workshop aims to better our understanding of the linkages and synergies between decentralisation and broader forest governance reforms, SFM, the improvement of living conditions for people who depend on forests and the increasing role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The results are expected to directly feed into the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Forum on Forests on the main theme "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", and will also contribute to the climate change process and inform UNFCCC COP 16, to be held in Mexico in November 2010.

The workshop will identify trends, facilitate the sharing of experience and distil lessons learnt on SFM, forest governance and decentralisation and REDD+ and identify opportunities and threats to livelihoods and poor people; contribute directly to the ninth session of UNFF; and inform discussions during COP16 in Mexico and contribute to REDD+ design.

Participants will include governments (both central and decentralised government units), development and environmental NGOs, local and indigenous peoples representatives, private sector representatives, regional organisations, and other relevant stakeholders from Latin America and other regions and global organisations such as UNFF, FAO, ITTO, UNFCCC.

For more information:  
<http://www.conafor.gob.mx/UNFFtallergobernanzayREDD/>

### Global statistical system and human capital

*16th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 1-3 September*

The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) is the main interagency mechanism in the professional field of official statistics, bringing together chief statistical managers from over 35 United Nations system and other international organizations, active in the collection and dissemination of official statistics. The Committee was established in 2002, taking over its key objectives from the former Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, namely to promote coordination, integration and complementarity among the statistical programmes of the international organizations.

The Committee meets twice a year and the upcoming session will be jointly hosted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The key topics on the agenda of the Sixteenth CCSA session include a special session on human capital and discussions on the Global Statistical System and the role of CCSA, development and maintenance of an Inventory on Global Statistical Standards, coordination of capacity building activities, use of non-official data in estimations made by the international organizations, establishment of a Network of statisticians working in international organizations, etc.

Information will also be provided about the outcomes from the recent Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations, status of the SDMX partnership and programme of work and celebration of the World Statistics Day. A report of the Committee's ongoing activities will be presented to the forty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

For more information: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/acsub-public/workpartner\\_ccsa.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/acsub-public/workpartner_ccsa.htm)

### Supporting MDGs with ICT

*PrepCom meeting for the presentation of the "MDG eMatrix" on 1-2 September and High-level Breakfast Presentation on 21 September*

On 1-2 September 2010, the Global Alliance on ICT and Development (GAID) will convene a preparatory meeting for the presentation of the "MDG eMatrix (ICT for MDG Project)" at the margins of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on 21 September.

The principal objective of the PrepCom meeting is to finalize, through an interactive discussion and exchange of ideas and

suggestions among high-level representatives of all relevant stakeholders, the design and features of the project.

On 21 September 2010, GAID will host a High-level Breakfast at which the “MDG eMatrix (ICT for MDG Project)”, the major new initiative of the Alliance, will be presented to high-level participants. Organized in the context of the High-level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) of the General Assembly, GAID will present the project to distinguished representatives of the Member States attending the HLPM of the General Assembly, Executive Heads of the entities of the UN system and other international organizations, top-level executives from the global private sector and other high-level stakeholders.

For more information: <http://un-gaid.ning.com/>

## Implementing national action plans on violence against women

*Expert Group Meeting will be held at the ECLAC/Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 13-15 September, convened by DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women in collaboration with ECLAC*

Participants will review national action plans on violence against women and analyze different approaches and their effectiveness, as well as identify key elements and good practices for the development, content, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national action plans on violence against women. A model framework for national action plans on violence against women to serve as a tool for Member States and other stakeholders in their efforts to adopt and implement such plans will be developed during this meeting.

The group of approximately eighteen (18) experts from all parts of the world includes government officials, lawyers, non-governmental organizations, academics and activists with in-depth knowledge and experience on national action plans addressing violence against women.

For more information: [www.eclacpos.org](http://www.eclacpos.org)

## Moving forest financing forward

*First meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on Forest Financing will be held from 13-17 September in Nairobi, Kenya*

In 2009, a special session of the ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests decided to establish the Open-ended Intergovernmental AHEG Forest Financing to make proposals on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global

objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund.

The Expert Group in Nairobi will involve presentations by government-nominated experts, regional processes and development banks, forest related international organizations, major groups as well as prominent experts on forest financing. These discussions will inform participants of the main developments happening on forest financing in terms of actions, programmes and strategies, the remaining gaps, needs, obstacles, and required actions in this field, and features of feasible forest financing strategies. Experts will also discuss plans for intercessional activities on forest financing in the lead up to the tenth session of the Forum in 2013.

A preliminary report from the Expert Group will be submitted to the ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests (24 January - 4 February 2011) and final recommendations will be submitted for consideration and decision to the tenth session of the Forum in 2013.

Forest finance has been one of the most complex issues in the international forest policy debate over the last 17 years. Given the increased recognition of the role of forests in addressing major global challenges including climate change, forest finance issues are of high importance for the global community.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-forestfinance.html>

## Using the Internet for the benefit of all

*Internet Governance Forum (IGF) will be held from 14-17 September at the Lithuanian Exhibition and Convention Centre (LITEXPO) in Vilnius and will focus on the overall issue of IGF 2010 – developing the future together*

International representatives of government, the private sector, civil society, the academic and technical communities, international organizations and the media will discuss the overall issue of "IGF 2010 – developing the future together". This theme reflects the open and inclusive nature of the IGF with its multilateral, multistakeholder, democratic and transparent approach to discussions of Internet-related public policy issues.

The Vilnius meeting will help articulate a view of how we can use the Internet for the benefit of all humankind, and how we can further address the risks and challenges ahead. Internet governance should not be seen as an end in itself, but as a means of achieving development for all as expressed in internationally

agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In broad-based consultations the following programme for the meeting includes: Managing critical Internet resources; security, openness and privacy; access and diversity; Internet governance for development; taking stock of Internet governance and the way forward and emerging issues: cloud computing.

Some 1,500 participants from more than 100 countries are expected to attend. Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development Jomo Kwame Sundaram will open the meeting.

The Internet Governance Forum is not a decision-making body, but a space for dialogue for all those involved to discuss Internet governance issues, where all participants engage as equals. There will be no negotiated outcome, but the meeting will seek to create an open and inclusive dialogue among all participants on public policy issues relating to the Internet and create new dynamics between participating institutions.

The Internet Governance Forum is an outcome of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which took place in 2005. In the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, Governments asked the Secretary-General to convene a new forum for policy dialogue to discuss issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the Internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development.

The initial four meetings of the IGF so far were held in Athens (2006), Rio de Janeiro (2007), Hyderabad (2008) and Sharm El Sheikh (2009). They illustrated the complexity and multifaceted nature of public policy issues related to Internet governance.

The General Assembly will decide later this year whether to follow the Secretary-General's recommendation and extend the IGF mandate for another five years.

For more information: [www.intgovforum.org](http://www.intgovforum.org)

## Reviewing the status of progress regarding poverty eradication

*Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Eradication is part of the preparations for the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) and will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15-17 September*

Organized by DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), in collaboration with the Economic Development and NEPAD Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the meeting is convened in the context of ECOSOC resolution 2010/L.5 in which the Economic and Social Council decided that the priority theme for the 2011-2012 review and policy cycle of the Commission should be "Poverty Eradication",

taking into account its relationship to social integration and full employment and decent work for all.

The outcomes of the meeting will provide important inputs to the work of the Commission, in particular contributing to reviewing the status of progress regarding poverty eradication as well as examining continuing challenges and prospects for poverty eradication in developing countries.

The primary objectives of the expert group meeting are to undertake a comprehensive review of successes, best practices and lessons learned, obstacles and gaps, as well as key challenges and opportunities, leading to concrete national, regional and international strategies for action.

The recommendations that will come out of this meeting will assist the Commission for Social Development during its deliberations of the priority theme for the 2011-2012 review and policy cycle. The deliberations of the meeting will also contribute to the preparation of the Report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development on the priority theme of "Poverty Eradication".

The working language of the meeting will be English (UNECA will provide French translation). Documentation for the meeting will be provided in English.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/meetings/egm10/index.html>

## Increasing women's access and use of technology

*Expert group meeting (EGM) on Gender, science and technology will take place from 28 September-1 October in Paris, France, in preparation of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The EGM will be organized by DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women (now part of UN Women) and in collaboration with UNESCO and explore the gender dimensions of science and technology, and identify policies and programmes that can accelerate progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

It will examine strategies for: Increasing women's access to and use of technology, including more gender-responsive products, increasing women's access to and participation in science and technology education and training, and eliminating barriers to women's participation in science and technology employment.

More information:

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/gst\\_2010/index.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/gst_2010/index.html)

## Capacity Development

### Sharing experiences in disseminating census data

*Regional Seminar on Census Data Dissemination and Spatial Analysis will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14-17 September*

DESA's Statistics Division, in cooperation with Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, is organizing this regional seminar in the context of the 2010 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses. The purpose of the Seminar is to provide a forum for sharing national practices and experiences in the dissemination and use of census data.

The Seminar will review emerging trends, innovative approaches and technological tools employed in the dissemination of census data. The Seminar is expected to provide a basis for assessing existing national dissemination strategies as well as technologies used by National Statistical Offices. It will also aid in taking stock of national capacities and challenges for meeting the increasing requirements of census data users.

Furthermore, the Seminar is expected to help in identifying good practices and lessons learned in the dissemination and analysis of census data. The ideas generated by the discussion and the recommendations made by participants will contribute towards the drafting of an international guideline for effective dissemination and utilization of census data.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/default.htm>

### Enhancing the capacity to use CensusInfo

*National Advanced Training Workshop on CensusInfo will take place in Cairo, Egypt, from 20-23 September*

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is organizing this workshop with the purpose to enhance the capacity of CAPMAS staff to use CensusInfo software as a tool for disseminating population and housing census results.

The workshop has been designed using an outcome-based training methodology consisting of a series of demonstrations

followed by practical exercises based on the 2008 census results of Egypt. Participants will learn how to customize CensusInfo software according to national requirements in order to finalize the national application of CensusInfo which was drafted during the basic training held in Cairo from 2-6 May 2010.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010\\_PHC/CensusInfo/index.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/CensusInfo/index.htm)

### Introducing Web 2.0 tools in the era of government

*Workshop on Harnessing Knowledge Management through Web 2.0 Tools in the Era of Government 2.0 will take place in Shanghai, China, from 25-27 September*

The workshop aims to enhance participants' capacity for interaction with their clients through their introduction to and education about cutting-edge Gov 2.0 tools. Furthermore, the workshop aims to improve the quality of participants' knowledge management through their introduction to the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) platform and their subsequent training on related Web 2.0 tools. Moreover, participants will be provided with opportunities to share experiences, lessons learned and good practices from their countries and regions with respect to Knowledge Management.

This workshop is co-organized by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) in collaboration with the Regional Cooperation Office for City Informatization (RCOCI) of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/Conferences/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1584/Default.aspx>

### Integrating ICT in parliamentary processes

*Workshop on ICT Strategic Planning in the SADC Parliaments was held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 26-28 July*

Awareness was raised among the Southern African Development Community (SADC) parliaments on the potential of ICT in parliament and the importance of strategic planning for the effective integration of ICT in parliamentary processes.

The event was co-organized by DESA, through the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, and the SADC Parliamentary Forum, in coordination with the Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan and brought together over 40 participants including Members of Parliament, Secretary-Generals and ICT Directors from Parliaments in the SADC region.

During the event, the APKN Draft Guidelines for Strategic Planning in Parliaments prepared by the African i-Parliament Action Plan were presented as well as the structure of the Handbook for ICT Parliamentary Committees that is being prepared by the Global Centre within the framework of the Project “Support to ICT Strategic Planning in the SADC Parliaments”.

The Workshop is one of the activities of the Project “Support to ICT Strategic Planning in the SADC Parliaments” funded by the European Commission and implemented by DESA in collaboration with the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

For more information:

<http://www.ictparliament.org/SADCictiplanning/contributi/Aide%20Memoire.pdf>

# Publications and Websites

## Statistical compilations



### Statistical Yearbook, Fifty-Third Issue

This Yearbook is an annual compilation of a wide range of international economic, social and environmental statistics on over 200 countries and areas, compiled from sources including UN agencies and other international, national and specialized organizations.

The 53rd issue contains data available to DESA's Statistics Division as of 31 October 2009 and presents them in over 70 tables on topics such as: agriculture, forestry and fishing; balance of payments; communication; development assistance; education; energy; environment; finance; gender; industrial production; international merchandise trade; international tourism; labour force; manufacturing; national accounts; population; science and technology; transport; and wages and prices. The number of years of data shown in the tables varies from one to ten, with most tables covering 1996 to 2008. Accompanying the tables are technical notes providing brief descriptions of major statistical concepts, definitions and classifications.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=426>



### 2007 Energy Statistics Yearbook

The 2007 Energy Statistics Yearbook is the fifty-first 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 2004 to 2007 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 direction of trade, selected series of statistics on renewables and wastes, refinery distillation capacity and a table on selected energy resources.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=424>



### Handbook on Population and Housing Census Editing, Revision 1

The Handbook provides guidance on the measurement of economic characteristics in population censuses, based on relevant experiences of countries, with a particular focus on the questions used and the requirements for processing of responses.

The Handbook is intended to provide census planners with a variety of approaches to assess the questions and methods of collecting economic characteristics used in their national census, as they evaluate the performance in the past decade and plan for the 2010 round of censuses (2005–2014). Users of census results may also find the present text useful when evaluating the quality of census results.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=427>

### 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.

### Vol. LXIV - No. 7, July 2010

This month, the following tables, which are featured in the MBS on a quarterly or annual basis, are presented along with the regular recurrent monthly tables: Civil aviation traffic; Total imports and exports by countries or areas; and World exports by provenance and destination.

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

## Policy Note



### Strengthening International Support Measures for the LDCs

This Policy Note, published by the Committee for Development Policy, is now available in electronic format and will be issued as a UN sales publication. The policy note recommends several ways in which the

existing support measures for LDCs can be made more effective and, where needed, complemented by additional interventions.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/devplan/cdppublications/2010cdpreport.pdf>

## Policy Brief

### Policy Brief No. 31: Fiscal Stimulus is Still Needed for Global Recovery

This Policy Brief, issued by DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, calls for further fiscal stimulus to strengthen the unbalanced and still weak global recovery.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief31.pdf>

## Discussion papers

### Monthly Briefing, No. 22 on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The Briefing highlights that global output growth is decelerating, as the key drivers of the initial recovery - including fiscal stimuli and inventory restocking - are waning. Meanwhile, world trade is almost back to its 2008 pre-crisis level, thanks to a strong recovery of trade flows from and to developing countries. Further, the Brief warns that six months after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the humanitarian and economic situation remains extremely alarming.

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad\\_wespmbn.html](http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wespmbn.html)

## Working papers

### CRED: A New Model of Climate and Development

This paper describes a new model, Climate and Regional Economics of Development (CRED), which is designed to analyze the economics of climate and development choices. Its principal innovations are the treatment of global equity, calculation of the optimum interregional flows of resources, and use of McKinsey marginal abatement cost curves to project the cost of mitigation. The model shows more equitable scenarios have better climate outcomes; the challenge of climate policy is to persuade high-income countries to accept the need for both international equity and climate protection.

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2010/wp96\\_2010.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2010/wp96_2010.pdf)

## Meeting records

### Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2010 resumed session (26 May - 4 June and 18 June) is now available. The Committee had before it 253 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from previous sessions. Of those applications, the Committee recommended 55 for consultative status, suspended its consideration of one organization, deferred 182 for further consideration at its regular session in 2011 and closed its consideration of 15 applications.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

### International Development Cooperation Report

The report entitled "Responsible Development Cooperation: maximizing impact in a fragmented environment" will be launched on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. The launch is scheduled to be part of the side-event being organized by UNDESA/OESD on "Accountability and transparency to reach the MDGs: Key mechanisms and initiatives".

The objective of this side event is to present concrete initiatives to promote accountability and transparency in development cooperation within the context of the achievement of the MDGs. The report will place a focus on accountability and transparency and its launch at the MDGs Summit will reinforce the position of the DCF as a key forum for analysis of accountability and transparency in development cooperation.

## Websites



### UNPAN and DPADM Websites

DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) has been working on the improvement of its divisional portals, UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN) and DPADM, in order to make them more user friendly and consistent with its focus. On the content side, the DPADM website is currently offering one of its products, the Standards of Excellence in Public Administration Education and Training, in five different languages.

Another change that fits both the content and cosmetic sides of the pages is related to UNPAN partners. The institutions that are frequent collaborators receive a banner in a prominent space on the UNPAN homepage, an action that has further stimulated their participation. UNPAN also now provides public administration news, which is updated on a daily basis. In both pages, announcements were standardized, giving the pages a neat and clean look, and the latest photos and videos of the division are now being promoted. Also to facilitate the navigation of the users, the division has inserted a sitemap on the bottom of both UNPAN and DPADM homepages, which lists all the pages in the website.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/>  
<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/AboutUs/tabid/420/Default.aspx>



### **GAID Website**

The United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UNGAID) has launched a new design for its official website. The website is currently being launched in English only, with all language versions to follow shortly. The GAID online community has grown significantly to 1591 + members and has grown as one of the largest online community on ICT4D.

For more information: <http://un-gaid.ning.com>

# Comings and Goings

## Comings



**Mr. Ronald Jansen** was appointed as Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch in the Statistics Division, DESA, effective 1 August 2010. In this new capacity, he is responsible for statistics of international trade in goods and services and tourism statistics. Before this appointment, Mr. Jansen was Chief of the

Capacity Development Section in the Office of the Director, managing the technical cooperation activities of the Statistics Division since May 2008.

Mr. Jansen received all his formal education in the Netherlands studying Statistics and Psychology at the University of Groningen, where he graduated in 1984. Thereafter, he taught Statistics and did his own research at the University of Nijmegen, obtaining a PhD in mathematical modeling of human information processing. In June 1990 he joined the Statistics Division, where he worked for many years in the area of international trade statistics, of which 6 years in Geneva.

*The following staff members were promoted in August:*

Wai Min Kwok, Information Management Officer, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Olivier Munyaneza, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office

Anna Marquinez, Research Assistant, Financing for Development Office

Patty Elahi, Team Assistant, Financing for Development Office

Sawitri Gismar, Team Assistant, Capacity Development Office

## Goings

*The following staff member retired in August:*

Vladimir Drjuchin, Chief of Section, Statistics Division

# Calendar

## September

Workshop on forest governance and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) in Latin America  
Oaxaca, Mexico, 31 August- 3 September  
<http://www.conafor.gob.mx/UNFFtallergobernanzayREDD/>

PrepCom meeting for the presentation of the “MDG eMatrix  
New York, 1-2 September  
<http://un-gaid.ning.com/>

Sixteenth Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities  
Vienna, 1-3 September  
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/acsub-public/workpartner\\_ccsa.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/acsub-public/workpartner_ccsa.htm)

Third session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
New York, 1-3 September  
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1532>

Expert Group Meeting on National Action Plans on Violence Against Women  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 13-15 September,  
[www.eclacpos.org](http://www.eclacpos.org)

First meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on Forest Financing  
Nairobi, Kenya, 13-17 September  
<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-forestfinance.html>

United Nations Regional Seminar on Census Data Dissemination and Spatial Analysis  
Nairobi, 14-17 September  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/default.htm>

Fifth Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF)  
Vilnius, 14-17 September  
<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

General Assembly  
65th session, New York, 14 September – December

<http://www.un.org/ga/>

Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Eradication  
Addis Ababa, 15-17 September  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/meetings/egm10/documents/aide%20memoire.pdf>

Summit on the Millennium Development Goals  
20-22 September  
<http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/>

United Nations National Advanced Training Workshop on CensusInfo  
Cairo, Egypt, 20-23 September  
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010\\_PH C/CensusInfo/index.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PH C/CensusInfo/index.htm)

High-level Breakfast Presentation of the MDG eMatrix (ICT for MDG Project)  
New York, 21 September  
<http://un-gaid.ning.com/>

Workshop on Harnessing Knowledge Management through Web 2.0 Tools in the Era of Government 2.0  
Shanghai, 25-27 September  
<http://www.unpan.org/Events/Conferences/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1584/Default.aspx>

Expert group meeting (EGM) on Gender, science and technology  
Paris, 28 September-1 October  
[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/gst\\_2010/index.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/gst_2010/index.html)

## October

International Day of Older Persons  
7 October  
[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/un\\_meetings.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/un_meetings.html)

Sixth session of Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters  
Geneva, 8-22 October  
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/sixthsession/index.htm>

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty  
17 October  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/index.html>

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