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"Life knew that I had a mission"

Daniela Bas was only six years old when doctors found a tumor pressing on her spine. Beating the odds, she survived but became paraplegic in less than 20 days before surgery. Now, Daniela heads UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, where one of the tasks is to promote the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its implementation worldwide.



"I was very lucky," says Daniela Bas, about having defeated a very rare disease that affects only two or three children in every million

and which hardly any child survived in the 1960s. "Probably life knew that I had a mission," she adds.

Daniela also refers to her parents and the fact that they always stood by her. Coming from a small town on the Italian countryside, the mentality and culture were different in those days. "Because I was paraplegic, I was a 'handicapped'. The label was there. People started treating me as a 'handicapped', except my parents."

To them, she was exactly the same child in her heart, feelings and personality. She might not be using her shoes anymore. She was wearing them, but it was the tires of a wheelchair that helped her move forward. But the way she commuted was the only thing that had changed.

Her parents also made sure that she could attend the primary school she was supposed to, only five months after she had become paraplegic, despite rules in those days not allowing children with a disability to attend ordinary school. However, three years later in the 1970s, regulations changed and Daniela was legally accepted in ordinary school.

"I think overall in Europe, things have improved. It took about 40 years. When it comes to developing countries, we have to be aware that even if we have the convention, it will take time before we see improvements," says Daniela.

International expert and broadcaster

Daniela graduated in international relations, writing her dissertation on employment of people with physical disabilities and the elimination of architectural barriers. With knowledge of several foreign languages and after completing an exam, she

joined the UN's CSDHA/Disabled Persons Unit in Vienna as a Junior Professional Officer in 1986. In the 1990s, this office moved to New York and later on became DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, of which Daniela now is in charge.

"I have to thank the United Nations for being so motivated. It is because the UN started promoting equal opportunities also for people with disabilities decades ago that I am here," she says.

For about 10 years, Daniela worked for the UN in the area of social development and human rights. She left the organization in 1995 and held a number of other significant assignments including as Special Adviser on "Fundamental Rights" to the former Vice President of the European Commission; as the Italian representative to the European Commission on "Tourism for All"; as Management Board Member of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna, and as journalist and broadcaster for Italian Radio RAI and Radio24/Sole24 Ore and TV channels.

Concept of reduced mobility

"When I talk about disability, and this is my very personal point, I prefer to talk about reduced mobility. Because that can embrace 80 per cent of the population. For one reason or another in our lives we will have some sort of reduced mobility, temporary or permanent," says Daniela.

During her years working as a journalist, Daniela focused mainly on leisure and tourism, as these are topics that appeal to people. "In all my broadcast, I was talking about social issues through tourism, trying to convey a message, to educate people and my listeners to this concept of reduced mobility."

Also behind this choice of focus, is probably Daniela's passion for travel. "For me, travel means freedom. I can move. And I have met many people with disabilities around the world, who have inspired me."

Focus on the person

Over the years, Daniela has seen progress within the UN on matters relating to disabilities. "The UN has changed its definitions during the past decades from 'handicapped', 'disabled person', to nowadays 'a person with a disability'. We are focusing on the person. I think this is a huge achievement."

Daniela also mentions other signs of improvements in society. When looking at fairy tales from the old days, the "bad guys" of the stories were often portrayed with some sort of disability. The cat in Pinocchio was blind, Captain Hook in Peter Pan had a hook instead of an arm and the wicked queen in Snow White probably had scoliosis. Nowadays, the stories are different and characters with disabilities are portrayed in a positive way. "This tells us that things have improved and that all the efforts of the UN during the last decade are paying off," says Daniela.

Working for change and advancing rights

Three months ago, Daniela returned to the UN and her area of expertise as the Director of UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development. Daniela highlights that through DESA's work, three disability-focused instruments have been adopted at the international level.

First there was the *World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons* in 1982; then the *Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities* in 1993; and lastly the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* in 2006. Pakistan is the latest country to ratify the convention, making 103 the total number of countries which have ratified so far.

"I hope the convention will help countries as well as the UN system to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development," says Daniela. She also hopes that the convention will bring about raised awareness about disability as a development and human rights issue as well as the situation of persons with disabilities on the ground. "Persons with disabilities should enjoy equal opportunities and a better quality of life. It takes decades, because it requires a cultural change."

Daniela also underscores UN DESA's cooperation with civil society and the possibilities created when we all work together. Member States, civil society, UN agencies and NGOs at grassroots level all play a part in affecting people and bringing about change.

Meeting to evaluate progress made in the implementation of the convention

Next on the agenda for Daniela and her team is one of the largest meetings of the international community working on disability issues taking place in New York on 7-9 September. The Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will then be held under the theme *Enabling Development, Realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. Member States, the UN and civil society will discuss on-going progress and will share good practices on the effective implementation of the convention around the world.

At the end of this DESA News interview with Daniela Bas, it is clear that nothing is impossible if you put your mind to it. And as said in a quote by Goethe, included on Daniela's personal website: "Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it".

For more information:

United Nations Enable: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

United Nations Enable on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/United-Nations-Enable/196545623691523>

UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development:

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

Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties:

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

World Report on Disability:

http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html

Daniela Bas:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/newsletter/2011/june/cg.shtml#cg2>

What to make of the recent global financial turmoil?

Is it fair to compare the recent plunge in stock markets with the early stages of the crisis in 2008 and are we heading towards a double-dip recession? These and other frequently asked questions on the current economic turmoil are addressed by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD).



Q1: Many observers draw a parallel between the recent plunge in stock markets and the early stage of the global financial crisis in 2008. Is that a fair comparison?

To some extent it is. The precipitous sell-off in global stock markets, the heightened market volatility, growing fears for a spreading sovereign debt crisis in Europe and escalating risks of a double-dip recession all have elements of resemblance to the situation in the first half of 2008, just before the global financial crisis erupted.

In some respects, the current situation may be even worse. In 2008, the main concern was with stress in the private financial sector. Now facing both public debt distress and continued financial sector fragility and the two are interwoven. In late 2008, many governments were able to mobilize large-scale resources to combat the crisis. Now most developed countries face greater fiscal constraints and political resistance to more government intervention.

In other respects, things are better now. Banks have disposed of a large proportion of toxic assets and have increased their capital. Households and firms have also managed to scale back their debts.

Q2: Are we heading towards a double-dip recession?

This may well be true for the advanced economies. Unemployment rates remain high and are a drag on the recovery of output. The economy of the euro zone has come to a virtual standstill already with growth in France and Germany faltering and the debt-ridden economies of Greece and Portugal have never been out of recession over the past three years. Economic growth in the United States has also decelerated significantly in the first half of the year, to less than 1 per cent, while Japan had already entered in another recession by the end of 2010.

The global economy need not enter into a double-dip recession, however, as growth in developing countries is still strong. Even so, their economic expansion is also slowing, in part because of the weakness in the advanced economies.

Q3: Is fiscal austerity the answer?

As such, it is not. The high unemployment and lack of private consumer and investment demand in advanced economies would in fact call for some additional fiscal stimulus. True, this may add to government debt, but so would a sliding economy that eats into government revenue and pushes up debt ratios.

For most advanced economies, the focus should be on measures stimulating jobs growth more directly in the short run and lay out credible plans for reducing budget deficits and debts over the medium run once economies are going again. Not all economies are in a position to do so, especially where the debt situation is beyond limits, such as in Greece and Portugal. Their plans for fiscal sustainability have greater urgency, but can only be effective with further external financial support and stronger growth in the euro zone because else an even deeper recession would defeat attempts at fiscal consolidation.

In short, national policies need to be coordinated internationally. During the financial turmoil of the past weeks, investors have been mostly concerned with faltering economic activity, not with fears for debt defaults per se.

Q4: Will the US dollar weaken following the downgrading of the credit rating for US sovereign debt?

The downgrading has exacerbated uncertainty in foreign exchange markets. So far, however, investors do not seem to have given up hope in the dollar and also their confidence that the United States will honour its debt obligations seems unscathed. In fact, over the past weeks they have bought more US Treasury bills as a sign these are still a 'safe haven' amidst all uncertainty and interest rates have fallen.

What happens next remains to be seen. No doubt we will see continued exchange rate volatility among major currencies in the short run. Over time, the tendency of the US dollar to fall is likely to resume if its external deficit persists.

Q5. What will happen to growth and poverty in the developing countries?

For now, growth rates are still up in developing countries and also employment has returned (on average) to pre-crisis levels. The slowdown in Europe and the United States will hurt their exports. Further declines in commodity prices will be a mixed blessing: some economies will see inflationary pressures ease with lower food and energy prices; others, depending on commodity exports, will see bleaker growth prospects. The uncertainty and related volatility in commodity prices and capital flows will be damaging to all, however, as it will affect long-term investment decisions and complicate macroeconomic policies.

Many developing countries showed resilience during the global crisis, but fiscal space is running out for a number of them to counteract another major drop in external demand. Many countries have already shifted to more restrictive policies in order to counteract high domestic inflation. But poverty reduction will be better served by a stable external environment and by policies focusing on making economic growth more inclusive through agricultural development, industrial diversification, and social development programmes.

For more information:

UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD):
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/index.shtml>

To stay updated, please follow the analysis in the *Monthly Briefings on the World Economic Situation and Prospects*:
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_mb.shtml

Indigenous rights: a celebration and a caution

Indigenous peoples make up more than five per cent of the world's population. Although their societies have contributed much to scientific and cultural knowledge, their ways of life continue to be threatened by the pace and scale of global development.



The UN International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August was commemorated with a panel discussion on the theme *Indigenous designs: Celebrating stories and cultures, crafting our own future*, highlighting the need to protect the rights and support the aims of indigenous groups. It was also stressed that the world cannot afford to lose the cultural wealth of indigenous societies, a point beautifully illustrated by the film *Kalimantan's Craft; Harmony of Culture and Nature*.

Video: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/08/panel-discussion-on-indigenous-designs-celebrating-stories-and-cultures-crafting-our-own-culture.html>

UN DESA's website story, featuring the film *Kalimantan's Craft; Harmony of Culture and Nature*:
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/social/celebrating-indigenous-peoples.html>

Indigenous Day resources:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/resources.shtml>

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/index.html>
UN News story:
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39258&Cr=indigenous&Cr1>

Global Dialogue on Development

Advancing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties will take place at UN Headquarters in New York on 7-9 September

Enabling Development, Realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is the theme of this conference, which is one of the largest meetings of the international community working on disability issues. Under the sub-themes *Realizing the Convention through International Cooperation, Political and Civil Participation* and *Work and Employment*, Member States, the UN and civil society will discuss on-going progress and will share good practices on the effective implementation of the convention around the world.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2006, coming into force in May 2008 upon the 20th ratification. Pakistan is the latest country to ratify on 5 July, making 103 the total number of countries which have ratified the convention so far.

According to the convention, “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.” Since 2008, three sessions have been held at UN Headquarters in New York.

More information:

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

Preparing for Rio+20

The High-level Symposium on the UN Conference on Sustainable Development will take place in Beijing, China on 8-9 September

The event will be co-organized by the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Rio+20 Secretariat in Beijing, China. It is intended to offer an opportunity for in-depth discussions among government officials, experts, and representatives from the UN system as well as Major Groups on both the objective and the two themes of Rio+20, with a view to formulating concrete proposals as a contribution to the preparation of the Conference.

More information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&nr=334&type=13&menu=23>

The future of forests

The winners of the 2011 Future Policy Award, which celebrates national forest policies, will be announced on 21 September at UN Headquarters in New York

The importance of sustainable development cannot be overstated; it helps people to combat poverty, maintaining their livelihoods and cultures, and it is vital to slowing climate change. The UN’s commitment to environmental sustainability and people-centered forests has recently been expressed through the International Year of Forests (IYF).

As part of this initiative, the World Future Council, UN DESA’s UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, along with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners, will award this year’s prestigious Future Policy Award to three exceptional national policies which strongly support the conservation, management and sustainable development of forests.

“Recognizing innovative forest policies is a vital component of raising awareness of the role forests play in delivering essential benefits and services for people everywhere,” says Jan McAlpine, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat. “This year’s Future Policy Award is particularly timely given its links to the first ever International Year of Forests 2011 and its message ‘Forests for People’.”

The initial 20 nominees for the Award all demonstrated innovative management strategies for forests. From those submissions, six from Bhutan, Gambia, Nepal, Rwanda, Switzerland and the USA are shortlisted. The three winning policies will be awarded at a ceremony at the Central Park Zoo in New York on 21 September.

Explaining why these particular policies were selected, Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity, remarked “These six shortlisted candidates all demonstrate leadership towards the achievement of the 2020 Biodiversity targets: halving deforestation, restoring forests worldwide and ensuring that all forests are managed sustainably.”

A notable feature of many of the nominations is that they allow local communities to take control of their own resources. The Nepalese community forestry programme encourages local management, and a similar initiative in Gambia has both protected forests against illegal logging and spurred economic growth.

In Rwanda, ambitious reforestation projects have had great success, particularly in protecting indigenous species.

Government policies in Bhutan and Switzerland have also significantly enhanced the prospects for sustainability; and the US has introduced new legislation to curb illegal logging abroad and timber importation in the US.

The International Year of Forests has also involved a number of other initiatives, including the establishment of a new international newsletter *Regional Voices*, issued by the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat; and the collaboration with the Universal Postal Union on their yearly letter writing award.

The International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People has been run since 1971. This year, participants were asked to imagine themselves as a tree, writing a letter to someone explaining why it is important to protect forests. The winning letters came from 15-year-old Charlée Gittens from Barbados and 13-year-old Wang Sa from China, whose entries stood out from over 2 million letters submitted worldwide.

For more information:

The International Year of Forests:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>

Future Policy Award:

http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future_policy_award.html

World Future Council: <http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/>

Universal Postal Union competition: <http://www.upu.int/en/media-centre/upu-press-releases/underway-press-release/article/1/young-writers-from-barbados-and-china-win-first-prize.html>

Regional Voices: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/news/en-regional-voices-1.html>

To subscribe to Regional Voices:

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/newsletters.html>

Seminar on energy for sustainable development

The newly established UN Office for Sustainable Development arranged a two-day seminar on 25-26 August in Incheon, Republic of Korea

The UN Office for Sustainable Development (UN-OSD), hosted by the Republic of Korea in Incheon and managed by UN DESA, inaugurated its substantive work by convening a two-day seminar at Yonsei University International Campus. Participants included government experts and international thought-leaders and knowledge providers on energy and sustainable issues drawn from the UN-system, academia and other institutions.

The objectives were to:

- Explore the "knowledge map" to be developed and promoted by the UN-OSD through an on-line knowledge management portal, drawing on existing sustainable development knowledge resources and through key partnerships with other UN offices, academic, research, and non-governmental knowledge institutions;
- Through the thematic lens of energy, analyze and discuss recent trends, challenges and policy implications of a transition to sustainable development.

In light of the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Brazil, 4-6 June 2012, the seminar presented an important opportunity for key stakeholders and thought leaders to discuss priorities and themes for the Office's operation as a global resource centre for knowledge, research, training and communication on sustainable development. In particular, the seminar discussed the creation of a web-based knowledge portal which is expected to be a central pillar of services provided by the Office.

For more information: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

Call for global strategy on youth employment

More than 500 young people from around the world came together to attend the High-level Meeting on Youth on 25-26 July at UN Headquarters in New York

Member States called for the creation of a global strategy on youth employment to anticipate and offset "the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for young people". The outcome of the meeting noted some 17 areas of action on youth issues, including specific measures to advance inclusive job creation, skill development and vocational training designed for specific labour market needs.

Strengthening educational opportunities, promoting human rights knowledge among youth, and encouraging dialogue for mutual understanding was also called for. Governments are also urged to support the capacity of youth-led organizations so they can participate in national and international development activities.

While it was Member States that directly negotiated the text, more than 100 youth-led organizations made important contributions. These groups called for more inclusive citizenship, as well as strengthening partnerships with youth to jointly address the serious difficulties young people face.

Approximately 50 senior Government and UN officials, national youth delegates, civil society organizations and private sector representatives actively engaged in two panel discussions. These discussions were held consecutively on the first day of the meeting, addressing two themes: (i) "Strengthening international cooperation regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements of efforts towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty," and (ii) "Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development."

Sha Zukang, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General and the Rio+20 Secretary-General, noted that challenges facing youth development - such as poverty, low-quality education and unemployment - are interrelated. Therefore, he added, "these challenges must be addressed through cross-sectoral policies and programmes that are holistic in nature. Our approach should be respectful of the rights of youth to inherit a healthy planet, and sensitive to youth needs in employment and youth diversity. In short we need to foster sustainable development for youth and their future".

At the plenary closing session, the panel co-Chairs presented summaries of the discussions. Strengthening international cooperation for youth was highlighted, as were other ways to support the eradication of poverty, full employment and social integration. For example, participants were reminded to better integrate youth issues in national development agendas, help strengthen national youth institutions and organizations of young people, and promote efforts to enhance inclusion and the effective participation of youth.

The High-level Meeting on Youth also featured 33 side events by UN agencies, civil society, youth-led organizations, permanent missions and the private sector.

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/youthyear/closing-high-level-meeting.html>

Trends and Analysis

Linking trade and other economic statistics

A seminar on International Trade Statistics: Implementation of IMTS 2010 and follow-up to the Global Forum will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania on 26-30 September

The Global Forum on Trade Statistics in February 2011, jointly organized by the UN DESA's Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) in Geneva, made explicit demands to improve the relevance of international trade statistics by connecting and integrating it with other economic statistics.

As a follow-up to the Global Forum on Trade Statistics, UNSD in cooperation with Eurostat and Statistics Lithuania, is organizing a seminar for countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, focusing on the implementation of the new recommendations on merchandise trade statistics (IMTS 2010), which were adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2010, with emphasis on linking trade and other economic statistics.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/outcome.htm

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/vilnius11/default.htm>

Internet as a catalyst for change

Sixth Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) will be held on 27-30 September in Nairobi, Kenya

Over 1,500 people – representing governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations, academic and technical communities and the private sector – are expected to participate in the forum to be held at the UN Office in Nairobi (UNON) under the main theme: “Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation”.

Over 500 people have already registered to participate, including representatives from 59 developing and 22 developed countries in different world regions. The event will include over 100 workshops organized by partner organizations. The Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Thomas Steltzer, will represent UN DESA at this event.

For more information: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM)

UN creates expert group to consult on managing geospatial information

The UN Programme on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) aims at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges. It provides a forum to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations.

The ECOSOC made history recently in Geneva by establishing a new intergovernmental body to address an emerging global issue. The UN Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management will bring together, for the first time at the global level, government experts from all Member States to consult on the rapidly changing field of geospatial information.

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

Capacity Development

Adjusting CensusInfo to disseminate data

Workshop on National Adaption of CensusInfo to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 19-23 September

The workshop is intended to develop the capacity of the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka to adapt CensusInfo to its full potential as a platform for disseminating census data. The participants will learn various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo, including the preparation of CensusInfo template and database, importing data, language translation and customization of the software package.

The sessions will include hands-on training on using the CensusInfo User Interface and Database Administration applications as well as an introduction to the process of web-enabling the CensusInfo database.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#19-23Sept2011

Forum for knowledge-sharing on census data archiving

United Nations Regional Seminar on Census Data Archiving will be arranged in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 20-23 September

UN DESA's Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, is organizing a Regional Seminar on Census Data Archiving. The purpose is to provide a forum for sharing of national practices and experiences in archiving census data.

The event will provide a basis for assessing existing national archiving strategies and technologies used, as well as for identifying good practices and lessons learned in census data archiving. It will also review major issues in archiving census data with a view to identifying challenges as well as considerations for formulating and implementing an effective national archiving plan.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#20-23 Sept2011

Implementing recommendations on energy statistics

International Workshop on Energy Statistics will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 27-30 September

UN DESA's Statistics Division (UNSD), in cooperation with the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is organizing this workshop as part of the implementation process of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES) which have been recently adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The main objectives are to train participants in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the IRES; to review and discuss issues that countries face in the collection, compilation and dissemination of energy statistics, and share national experiences. The discussions will also contribute to the development of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM).

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/Workshops/Azerbaijan2011.htm>

Publications and Websites

Technical reports



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

The report to be launched the third week of September monitors the progress made in achieving the targets of MDG 8. Continued attention is given to the impact of the global

crisis on meeting these targets 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.

Policy coherence is a central theme of the report, paying attention not only to issues of consistency across the various dimensions of global partnerships, but also to the extent to which those alliances are aligned behind national development strategies for attaining the MDGs. The adequacy of international support measures, especially for least developed countries particularly regarding trade preferences and debt relief, are also analyzed. With less than four years left until the 2015 MDG deadline, the 2011 report provides recommendations to all major stakeholders on how to address the remaining implementation gaps.

To download:

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



Private Sector Toolkit for Working with Youth

This technical paper has been produced by the United Nations Programme on Youth in the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the NGO Restless Development, in the

context of the International Year of Youth.

The purpose of this document is to explore cooperation between youth and the private sector, both in principle and in practice, in order to:

- Highlight the role of youth as social actors, and increase general understanding of young people's great potential as development partners;
- Inspire the private sector to partner with youth by showcasing several case studies and demonstrating the economic

advantage of investing in youth, in contrast to the cost of underinvestment; and

- Provide initial guidance on facilitating private sector engagement with young people, and the formation of meaningful partnerships, to better influence development processes worldwide.

The toolkit for working with youth is part of a series of technical papers aimed both at strengthening youth participation at all levels through cooperation among various stakeholders, as well as at highlighting the role of youth as agents of development. Building on youth participation in development, which provides guidance to development agencies and policymakers, and the activities kit, which provides guidance to young people on celebrating the International Year of Youth, this technical paper is a tool geared towards enhancing partnership between youth and the private sector.

To download:

<http://social.un.org/index/Home/tabid/40/news/146/Default.aspx>

Statistical compilations



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

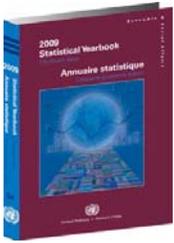
The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world. It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or

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: Civil aviation traffic: passenger km and cargo net ton km; Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars; World exports by provenance and destination.

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



Statistical Yearbook, Fifty-fourth issue

The Statistical 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 54th edition contains data available to the Statistics Division as of 31 December 2010 and presents them in 70 tables on topics such as: agriculture, forestry and fishing; communication; development assistance; education; energy; environment; finance; gender; international merchandise trade; international tourism; labour force; manufacturing; national accounts; population; prices; science and technology; and transport. The number of years of data shown in the tables varies from one to ten, with most tables covering the period up to 2008 or 2009. Accompanying the tables are technical notes providing brief descriptions of major statistical concepts, definitions and classifications.

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



The World Statistics Pocketbook 2010

The World Statistics Pocketbook 2010 is the thirtieth in a series of annual compilations of key statistical indicators prepared by United Nations Statistics Division of UN DESA. Over 50 indicators have been collected from more than 20 international statistical sources and are presented in one-page profiles for 216 countries

or areas of the world.

This issue covers various years from 2000 to 2010. For the economic indicators, in general, three years - 2000, 2005 and 2009 - are shown; for the indicators in the social and environmental categories, data for one year are presented. The topics covered include: agriculture, balance of payments, education, energy, environment, food, gender, health, industrial production, information and communication, international finance, international tourism, international trade, labour, migration, national accounts, population and prices.

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

Meeting records

Report of the Secretary-General on International financial system and development (A/66/167)

The report reviews recent trends in international official and private capital flows of developing countries and current efforts to reform the international monetary and financial system and architecture. The report highlights the urgent challenges arising from the world financial and economic crisis and its aftermath, in particular in the key areas of financial regulation and supervision, multilateral surveillance, macroeconomic policy coordination, sovereign debt, global financial safety net, international reserve system and governance reform of the Bretton Woods institutions.

View full report:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/66/167&Lang=E

Outreach material

Rio+20: Making it Happen

The latest issue highlights the General Assembly's High-level Meeting on Youth, which took place on 25-26 July in New York, including the Secretary-General's call to Member States to include youth in national delegations to UN meetings, including Rio+20. Besides upcoming events, this issue also announced a pre-launch seminar on 25-25 August for the newly established UN Office for Sustainable Development in Incheon, Korea and the Delhi Dialogue on "Green Economy and Inclusive Growth" taking place on 3-4 October.

View full issue at:

<http://www.unccd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=40>

Natural Resource Forum publishes special issue on "green economy"

Natural Resources Forum, a UN Sustainable Development Journal, has issued a special issue on green economy and sustainable development which is available on-line. Articles cover social transformation; technological change for clean energy scenarios; shaping agricultural innovation systems; biofuels governance; public-private partnerships; green funds; and policy challenges.

View full issue at:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/narf.2011.35.issue-3/issuetoc>

Regional Voices

The first edition of the newsletter *Regional Voices*, published by the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, follows the First Summit on Tropical Forest Ecosystems of Amazonia, the Congo Basins and South East Asia, which took place in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo and the Forest Europe Ministerial conference in Oslo, Norway. The newsletter is also available in French and Spanish.

View full issue: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/news/en-regional-voices-1.html>

View French version: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/news/fr-regional-voices-1.html>

View Spanish version: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/news/es-regional-voices-1.html>

United Nations Youth Flash

The July issue is now available. 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.aspx>

United Nations Enable Newsletter

The July issue is now available online. ENABLE Newsletter is prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society.

View full issue at:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?PID=312>

DESA NGO News

The latest edition is now available. 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/27july.pdf>

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The August issue of *the Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects* highlights that economic growth is decelerating markedly in many world regions. Equity markets have tumbled and exchange rate volatility has sharply increased as sovereign debt problems in developed economies continue. Food emergencies are affecting millions of people in the Horn of Africa and Haiti

For more information:

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

Comings and Goings

Goings



Mr. Tariq Banuri retired on 31 August as Director of the Division for Sustainable Development and Head of Office of the Conference Secretary-General for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Mr. Banuri has broad experience on the interface between policy, research and practical actions on the realization of the goal of sustainable development. He has also worked in government, academia, civil society and the international system.

Before joining the UN, he was Senior Fellow and Director of the Future Sustainability Program at the Stockholm Environment Institute. He started his career in the Civil Service of Pakistan, went on to receive a PhD in Economics from Harvard University, joined the UN as a Research Fellow at the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), a model that he adopted in setting up and serving as the founding Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Pakistan.

Mr. Banuri has served on national as well as international forums for policy, advocacy, and research, including as a Coordinating Lead Author on the Nobel Prize-winning Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as a member of the Board of Governors of Pakistan's Central Bank, and of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Council, and as a member/secretary of Pakistan's Presidential Steering Committee on Higher Education. He has also served as the Chair of the Board of Governors of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), and was a founding member of the Great Transition Initiative (GTI).



Mr. Nikolai Zaitsev retired on 31 August as Head of DESA's Capacity Development Office. Mr. Zaitsev joined the UN in March 1982 as an economic research staff of the UN Centre on Transnational Corporations. He initiated and produced a study on TNCs and the environment, which led to many subsequent UN publications in this field.

In 1987-1991, Mr. Zaitsev was the project officer of a pioneering technical cooperation programme in the former Soviet Union on foreign direct investment. This programme had an important trigger effect that helped change perceptions (and policies) in the last years of the USSR on investment cooperation with the rest of the world. In 1992-1993, he held the position of Secretary of the

UN joint delegation to the three international conferences on the Commonwealth of Independent States. Immediately after, he served as Coordinating Secretary of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the CIS, which would eventually lead to the establishment of UN Joint Offices in all the republics of the CIS.

In the late 1990s, Mr. Zaitsev became part of the original "pack" of practitioners in the Secretariat which introduced Results based Budgeting (RBB) in the UN regular budget programming and implementation. He was one of the main 'brains' behind the concept of IMDIS which is still used by the Secretariat for programming and reporting of its activities. He advanced the idea and steered the development of the Travel DataBase – today one of the key administrative tools in DESA.

In 2002, Mr. Zaitsev became Chief of the OUSG in DESA, a post he would hold for seven productive years, aiding three consecutive USGs, making him the longest serving Chief of Staff in the history of the Department. In February of 2009, he became Head of DESA's Capacity Development Office. His important responsibilities have included the management of the UN Development Account, a role he has been playing enthusiastically since Day One of the Account's establishment in 1997.

The following staff member also retired in August:

Cynthia Conti, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Comings



Ms. Ndey Isatou Njie joined the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) as Chief of the Water, Energy and Strategies Branch on 8 August. Ms. Njie has 32 years experience in water resources and environmental management, managing strategic framework processes for sustainable development, and capacity development.

Prior to joining DSD, she served as UNDP's capacity development practice leader for West and Central Africa. As UNDP's Africa Regional Coordinator for *Capacity 2015*, Ms. Njie coordinated the support for national preparatory processes for WSSD for a number of African countries, whilst as Regional Coordinator for *Capacity 21*, she coordinated the support for the preparation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies for project countries in Africa. She worked with IUCN as strategic planning adviser for Africa under the strategies for sustainability programme.

Ms. Njie was the first Executive Director for The Gambia National Environment Agency (NEA), and led the national preparations for UNCED. She has served in a number of international advisory positions which include: the chair of the policy consultative group for natural resources management in Africa, for the World Resources Institute (WRI); member of the board of directors for Lead international; member of the board of directors of the Network of for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA); and member of the African advisory group for SEMCIT (Sustainability, Education, and the Management of Change in the Tropics).

The following staff members were promoted in August:

Andrea De Luka, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Maria Guran, Team Assistant, Statistics Division

Carlos Gusukuma, Information Management Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Dominika Halka, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development office

Phillicia Waite, Senior Staff Assistant, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Calendar

September

Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties

New York, 7-9 September

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

High-level Symposium on the UN Conference on Sustainable Development

Beijing, China, 8-9 September

<http://www.unctd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&nr=334&type=13&menu=23>

66th session of the General Assembly

New York, 13 September – 31 December

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

Workshop on National Adaption of CensusInfo

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 19-23 September

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#19-23Sept2011

United Nations Regional Seminar on Census Data Archiving

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-23 September

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#20-23%20Sept2011

2011 Future Policy Awards Ceremony Celebrating National Forest Policies

New York, 21 September

<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/events.shtml>

Seminar on International Trade Statistics

Implementation of IMTS 2010 and follow-up to the Global Forum, Vilnius, Lithuania, 26 – 30 September

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/vilnius11/default.htm>

International Workshop on Energy Statistics

Baku, Azerbaijan, 27-30 September

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/Workshops/Azerbaijan2011.htm>

Sixth Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Nairobi, Kenya, 27- 30 September

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

October

International Day of Older Persons

7 October

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

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 October

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

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

Geneva, 24-28 October

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

Global launch of the International Year of Cooperatives (2012)

New York, 31 October

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

DESA News is an insider's look at the United Nations in the area of economic and social development policy. The newsletter is produced by the Communications and Information Management Service of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with DESA Divisions. DESA News is issued every month. Please click [here](#) to send inquiries.