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Keeping the momentum beyond 2015

With less than three years to the deadline, significant progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Meanwhile, the UN is now working closely with different international stakeholders to ensure a sustainable development path beyond 2015.



The international community is ramping up activities as the 2015 target date approaches for achieving the development goals, set out

in the Millennium Declaration, on poverty alleviation, education, gender equality, child and maternal health, environmental sustainability, HIV/AIDS reduction and a 'Global Partnership for Development'. These include discussions among governments, civil society, academia and research institutions, and the private sector on how to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

"Nothing but a truly transformative agenda will match the challenges ahead and the aspirations of all people for development that is inclusive, equitable and sustainable" said Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wu Hongbo, reflecting on the work and the opportunities ahead.

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, headed by Mr. Wu, is fully engaged in promoting and supporting the emergence of a solid and ambitious post-2015 development agenda. DESA has established a department-wide task force to this end, as well as to support the role of DESA in leading, jointly with UNDP, the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

The UN System Task Team

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon established the UN System Task Team in September 2011 to coordinate system-wide preparations for a post-2015 UN development agenda. The team is mobilizing analytical work and outreach within the UN system and beyond.

The Task Team is made up of more than 60 UN agencies, Secretariat departments and other international organizations, including the IMF, World Bank and WTO. Co-chaired by DESA and UNDP, its mission is to assess ongoing efforts within the UN system, consult external stakeholders and define a system-wide vision and road-map to support the deliberations on the post-2015 UN development agenda.

In June, the Task Team delivered its first report to the Secretary-General, “Realizing the Future We Want for All”. Striving for a more holistic outlook, the team advises to keep the Millennium Declaration as the point of departure, and retain a clear focus on human development, while building on the lessons learned from the MDGs and addressing new challenges. In line with the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, it also underscores the central role of sustainable development.

The Task Team outlines a vision for the development agenda starting with the core values of sustainability, equality and human rights. The vision then unfolds into four key dimensions that could serve as the basis for defining specific global goals and targets: inclusive social development; inclusive economic development; environmental sustainability; and peace and security.

Getting on a sustainable development path

The Report of the Task Team will serve as a reference for the further broad and inclusive consultations that will take place in the coming years on the post-2015 UN development agenda. Much activity is already scheduled during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, moving towards a post-2015 UN development agenda, with sustainable development at its centre.

By the start of its 67th session, and as agreed at the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012, the General Assembly will launch an intergovernmental open working group to develop a proposal on sustainable development goals, or SDGs, as an integral part of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is continuing to play a leading role in the discussions, gathering government representatives from all over the world on 24 September for the ECOSOC Ministerial Meeting, featuring an expert panel discussion, followed by an interactive dialogue on strengthening the multilateral system for sustainable development.

The Secretary-General’s High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, established in July to provide further support to the multi-stakeholder consultations, will hold its first meeting on the margins of the Assembly’s high-level debate in September.

And later this fall, the General Assembly will consider the second annual report of the Secretary-General on accelerating progress towards the MDGs, including his recommendations on ways to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

The MDGs have played an important role in advancing the development agenda and in improving the lives of people around the globe. With the target date on the horizon, the UN is intensifying its collaboration with global partners to build on the momentum and to build consensus around an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, with sustainable development at its core.

Photo credit: iStock photo used for UN Task Team Report Cover

For more information:

[UN Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\) – beyond 2015](#)
[The UN System Task Team](#)
[“The Future We Want for All” – Report of the UN System Task Team](#)
[The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012](#)
[Rio+20 Conference Outcome Document](#)

UN helps create a positive future for persons with disabilities

What do Jiří Ježek and Chantal Benoit have in common? They both live with disabilities. In the upcoming Paralympics Jiří will cycle with a prosthetic leg and Chantal will shoot hoops from a wheelchair. This is just one example of how people living with disabilities can flourish when they are empowered and when barriers for their inclusion in society are removed.



On 12-14 September, just two weeks after the Paralympics, the UN will host the Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to review good practices and challenges in the implementation of the Convention, which will help build a more inclusive, accessible and supportive international framework to promote the development and human rights of all persons with disabilities.

Adopted on 13 December 2006 and entering into force on 3 May 2008, the Convention is the fastest ever negotiated human rights treaty. It is intended as an international tool with an explicit social development dimension. Parties to the Convention are required to promote, protect, and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities, and ensure that they enjoy full equality under the law.

The two and a half-day session will gather hundreds of delegates

from Governments, UN system organizations, academics and civil society, including representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, to discuss ways to improve the lives and well-being of persons with disabilities. The theme of this year's session is "Making the CRPD count for Women and Children". The following are the sub-themes of the Conference: "Technology and Accessibility", "Children with Disabilities" and "Women with Disabilities".

1 billion people worldwide live with a disability and lack access and support

It is estimated that there are currently over 1 billion people worldwide living with a disability. They face barriers to full participation in society such as difficulties with physical accessibility, transportation and lack of access to information and communications technologies. It is widely understood that inaccessible environments can impede or enable, perpetuate exclusion or foster participation. Unfortunately for many people living with disabilities, their environments create barriers for their participation in society and development.

States Parties and individual experts will be given the opportunity to share their experiences of how improved accessibility can benefit all in society. The meeting will also discuss how accessibility and universal design can be incorporated in national development policies and programmes and how innovative solutions, such as public-private partnerships, can play an important role.

Children and women with disabilities are more marginalized

Children with disabilities are among the most marginalized and excluded members of society. They are less likely to attend school, to have access to appropriate medical and social services or to participate fully in their communities. Children with disabilities can experience double discrimination based on their identity, their gender or their minority status and face a significantly increased risk of physical abuse. They are also less able to advocate for themselves when it comes to fighting this discrimination and accessing services.

There are social costs related to the exclusion of children with disabilities from educational and employment opportunities. Adults with disabilities are often poorer than adults without disabilities but education has been found to decrease the divide. It is unknown exactly how many children have a disability worldwide due to systematic under-reporting and a lack of reliable data. It is estimated that as many as four in five children with disabilities live in developing countries.

Women with disabilities are also a highly vulnerable group. They often lack access to essential services, necessary to enjoy of their basic human rights. In many cases, they also have limited access to education and employment. Women with disabilities experience higher rates of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation than women without disabilities. It is widely recognised that the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women with disabilities is vital for their human

rights, but also for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals.

A future we want for all

The international community is increasingly recognizing the necessity and importance of including disability to inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. Some important steps are being taken to build a positive future for people living with disabilities. The Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want", has five specific references to disability, promoting sustainable development policies supporting equal rights and accessibility.

The discussions around new emerging international development frameworks have already started within and beyond the United Nations. On 23 September 2013 the General Assembly will also convene a High-Level Meeting on Disability where world leaders will have a unique and historic opportunity to discuss with the overarching theme: the way forward and initiate a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond.

Stories of Paralympians and persons with disabilities have made headlines before, but to name a few other examples, Albert Einstein had a learning disability and didn't speak until age 3. Ludwig van Beethoven was deaf. Thomas Edison also had a learning disability and couldn't read until he was twelve. Franklin D. Roosevelt had Polio and author Helen Keller was both deaf and blind. British physicist Stephen Hawking managed to author "A Brief History of Time"

These stories tell the same simple truth: disability is by no means an inability. These individuals all achieved greatness when they were fully included in society and they demonstrate that by breaking down barriers, and with the right opportunities, exceptional things are possible.

For more information:

[Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#)

Empowering people to advance development

"Empowerment has many meanings. I think ultimately it is about people and the human potential that is within us all," says

Daniela Bas, Director of DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), as her team prepares for an expert group meeting on this topic. Ahead of the September meeting, they seek people's input and questions on empowerment.



On 10-12 September 2012, DSPD is gathering experts in New York to focus on the theme “Promoting people’s empowerment in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”. The meeting is part of the preparations for the 51st session of the Commission for Social Development, scheduled to take place in February 2013.

“We have a unique chance to contribute, and to help shape future policies that can have a major impact on people’s empowerment across the globe,” says Ms. Bas, highlighting that there are two ways in which the online community can contribute with ideas and questions.

There is an online survey on empowerment, which runs through 5 September. Just launched and available until 7 September, is also an online forum on Facebook, where people are invited to share questions on empowerment. They can also send in queries via Twitter using @UNDESA and #EmpowerPeople. Questions should focus on the theme of the expert group meeting and must also be linked to social groups including people living in poverty, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and families.

At the meeting in September, experts will respond to selected questions from the online community. This part of the event will also be available on 12 September on [DESA's Youtube channel](#). “Your input matters. Empower yourself and inspire the world,” encourages Daniela Bas.

For more information:

<http://bit.ly/EmpoweringPeople>

[Online survey on empowerment \(open until 5 September\)](#)

[Facebook forum event \(open until 7 September\)](#)

[DESA on Twitter](#)

[DESA on Youtube](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Advancing the rights of persons with disabilities

The fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be held in New York on 12-14 September

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2006, entering into force on 3 May 2008.

Convention article 40 states 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.” Since 2008, four sessions of the Conference of States Parties have been held at UN Headquarters in New York.

The theme of the fifth session is “Making the CRPD count for Women and Children”. The following are the sub-themes of the Conference: “Technology and Accessibility”, “Children with Disabilities” and “Women with Disabilities”.

For more information: [Conference of States parties](#)

World leaders gather for UN General Assembly

The sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly will convene at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 18 September

Following the opening on 18 September, the high-level meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels will be held on 24 September to be followed by the start of the general debate on 25 September.

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Member States of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the UN Charter. The Assembly meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.

Second and Third Committees

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 deals with the economic and financial aspects of development and its Third Committee addresses social, humanitarian and cultural matters. Both the Second and Third Committees will convene in October.

For more information: [United Nations General Assembly](#)

Building the future we want

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold a Special Ministerial Meeting on 24 September from 3:00 pm to 7:45 pm at UN Headquarters in New York

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), world leaders acknowledged the vital importance of an inclusive, transparent, strengthened and effective multilateral system to better address the urgent global challenges of sustainable development. In *The Future We Want*, world leaders also recognized the important role of the Economic and Social Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The Special Ministerial Meeting will center on a moderated expert panel discussion followed by an interactive dialogue on strengthening the multilateral system for sustainable development and a better integration of the economic, social and environmental spheres.

The Meeting is a unique opportunity to discuss with Government Ministers from around the world, and other key players from the international community, the steps that are needed for a more effective multilateral system for sustainable development.

For more information: [The Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#)

Protecting the rights of older people

The third substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing took place in New York on 21-24 August

Aimed at strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons, the Working Group is mandated to consider the existing international rights framework for older persons, to identify possible gaps and how best to address them.

The third substantive session began with a panel discussion on discrimination with experts Mr. Charles Radcliffe, Head of Global Issues at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as moderator, Mr. Alejandro Morlachetti, Professor of Law at the University of La Plata, Argentina, Ms. Louise Richardson, Vice President AGE Platform Europe and Ms. Susan Ryan, Australia's Age Discrimination Commissioner.

Outlining the scope of discussion, Mr. Radcliffe said, "The working group at its heart is really an invitation to look at the human rights challenges faced by older people today and think about what can be done to make sure everyone, regardless of their age, can enjoy the same rights on an equal footing. The right to be free of discrimination is a fundamental principle of international human rights law, not just for older people but for people of all ages. States have a legal duty to protect citizens against discrimination".

The Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing outlines that all too often older people face numerous types of discrimination surrounding; employment, healthcare, social and financial exclusion, and are often at risk of poverty or living in poverty.

Older people are more likely to face redundancy in tough economic times. They frequently don't benefit from training opportunities and face severe barriers to re-entry into the workforce, often suffering long periods of unemployment and financial strain.

Healthcare was identified as an area fraught with discriminatory practices. Older people are vulnerable to the steep costs associated with complimentary healthcare insurance, co-payments or lack of health insurance, and in many cases have difficulty accessing health services at all due to age discriminatory practices in the allocation of healthcare. Lack of access or limited knowledge of technology can lead to exclusion. For example, now that so much information on benefits is available online, older people can find this difficult to navigate and miss out on information about key benefits and services. Multiple discrimination was highlighted as a major problem for older persons, be it because of gender, ethnicity, disability or sexual orientation.

Additionally, older people can face financial exclusion through unwillingness on the part of financial institutions to offer them credit and certain financial products. Ms. Richardson said, "When it comes to goods and services there is no binding legislation regarding discrimination. Age Platform Europe has recently demonstrated the persistence of age limits in access to travel insurance, complimentary health insurance, mortgages and bank loans. In many member states older people are charged prohibitively high fees or are denied access to insurance".

Susan Ryan, Australia's dedicated Age Commissioner spoke about the Australian experience handling age discrimination. "The Australian government created the role of the Age Commissioner because of demographic changes, the ageing population and the

fact that people are living longer in better health. The combination of these factors persuaded the government that there should be specific protections for older people to protect against age discrimination in society and in the workplace particularly".

The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing also discussed issues surrounding autonomy, independent living and health care; life in dignity, social security and access to resources; abuse and violence against older persons; and access to justice.

For more information:

[Third substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing](#)

Google+ Hangouts celebrate International Youth Day

Leading up to International Youth Day on 12 August, six live Google+ Hangouts were arranged by DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development on 8-10 August

The topics for the events were aligned with the themes set out for the Secretary-General's System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Youth currently under development. They include: Political inclusion; Citizenship and the protection of rights; Employment; Entrepreneurship; and Education, including on sexual and reproductive health.

"The feedback that we have received is overwhelming, well above our expectations," said Sandra Lindblom, Consultant with DSPD, who managed this project. Reactions so far have praised this innovative new way of hosting discussions within the UN enabling participation and engagement from people located in all corners of the world.

Each hangout featured about five participants representing youth, Member States, the UN, the private sector and academia. Organizations taking part in the events included: UNDP, Forum for Youth Investment, UN-Habitat, MTV, Mexican Institute of Youth, Major Group on Children and Youth, Gap, ILO, USAID, YMCA World Alliance, Cornerstone Global Associates, UNIDO, Digital Opportunity Trust, Kenya, UNESCO, United Natives, Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity, the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN, and the Gutmacher Institute.

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/InternationalYouthDay/IYD2012.aspx>

[Google+ Hangouts on DESA's Youtube Channel](#)

Trends and Analysis

Seeking input on empowerment

What does empowerment mean to you? The Division for Social Policy and Development of DESA (DSPD/DESA) has launched an online survey from 8 August to 5 September and wants to hear from you

Take the survey now and make sure that your recommendations are heard by the Commission for Social Development (CSocD).

Empowerment is not new to the United Nations. But what does empowerment mean? There is a growing consensus that it involves two things: active participation and the institutional structure that makes this happen. But when we say active participation, we mean something very specific. People who are not free to participate in their economies and do not receive equal benefits nor control their own destinies. What we mean by empowerment is participation of people in decision-making, about their futures, their current conditions and the environment in which they live.

Because of its importance, the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) has selected promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all as its priority theme for 2013-2014.

To promote and support this theme, DSPD/DESA has launched an online survey until 5 September 2012 for you to make recommendations to the work of the 51st session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD).

TAKE PART IN THE SURVEY NOW!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/empowering-people>

More details on the survey, an upcoming expert group meeting and related online events on empowerment are also highlighted in the DESA News story [Empowering people to advance development](#)

For more information: <http://bit.ly/EmpoweringPeople>

Promoting people's empowerment

A high-level expert group meeting on "Promoting people's empowerment in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all" will be arranged in New York on 10-12 September

Organized by DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), the meeting is part of the preparations for the 51st session of the Commission for Social Development, scheduled to take place in New York in February 2013.

The meeting is convened in the context of draft Resolution 1 in the Report of the Commission for Social Development in which the Economic and Social Council decided that the priority theme for the 2013-2014 review and policy cycle should be "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, 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 the formulation of policies that have been shown to have a major impact on efforts to promote people's empowerment.

More details on this meeting and related online events are also highlighted in the DESA News story [Empowering people to advance development](#)

For more information: <http://bit.ly/EmpoweringPeople>

Open data in New York City

On 26 July, DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) hosted an in-house seminar on Open Government Data (OGD)

Andrew Nicklin and Girish Chhugani from New York City's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications in charge of the NYC Open Data portal, presented how open datasets are used in the city and the benefits of open data competitions for residents. They also gave an indication of some future projects about open data in the city.

NYC Open Data Portal collects public data generated by New York City agencies and makes it available for public use. Most recently, at the 2012 UN Public Service Awards, Open data was cited as having contributed to NYC311, the City of New York's customer service, which was awarded the first place in Category 2: "Improving the Delivery of Public Services".

For more information:

[DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management \(DPADM\)](#)

[The 2012 UN Public Service Awards](#)

Researching the status of public administration

The Annual Conference of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) took place in Bangkok, Thailand on 16-21 July

As part of an agreed program and outputs of its work, DESA and IASIA joined the International Task Force on "Strengthening

public administration at local level for the achievement of the development agendas” and agreed to carry out regional research on the status of public administration in local governments.

The report on the research will initially be presented and discussed during the Commonwealth Local Governments Forum in Kampala, Uganda, in 2013 and thereafter in June 2013, at the IASIA conference in Bahrain. In Bahrain, the task force will further discuss and consolidate the report, also including input from the Kampala meeting.

This was agreed after the task force met during the annual conference of the IASIA in Bangkok.

For more information:

[DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management](#)

Capacity development

Building a better world with cooperatives

An expert group meeting on “Harnessing the Cooperative Advantage to Build a Better World” will be organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 4-6 September

Also including a capacity-building workshop, this event will provide a forum for examining the distinct ways in which the cooperative model promotes individual and collective self-help, contributes to socio-economic development, and strengthens communities around the world.

It will bring together cooperatives, researchers, NGOs, Government representatives, donors and international organizations, and allow participants to share experiences and develop strategies for engaging with, and advancing, the cooperative movement. Led by DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), the event is one of the official United Nations activities for the International Year of Cooperatives.

For more information:
[International Year of Cooperatives 2012](#)

Projecting populations in Africa

A workshop on population projections for French speaking African countries will be arranged in Rabat, Morocco, on 10-14 September

DESA’s Statistics Division is organizing the workshop in collaboration with the Direction de la Statistique, Haut Commissariat au Plan du Maroc. It is held in the context of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses with the objectives to strengthen the technical capacity of the participating countries to generate population projections at different geographical levels and sectors. In so doing, the workshop also aims to draw participants’ attention to the necessary preparatory work before undertaking the population projections.

These includes detecting and correcting errors in the base data, making assumptions about future trends in demographic parameters, and the choice of method to use to project the population, how far into the future to project the population, and for what level of geography it is feasible to generate the projections.

The workshop will also provide the forum to discuss national practices and to exchange experiences and lessons learned among

the participating countries. The attendees will also learn about available software packages for generating population projections.

For more information:
[2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme](#)

With an aim to improve public service delivery in Africa

A workshop on “Leadership Capacity-Development for Improved Delivery of Public Services in Africa using Information and Communication Technologies” was held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, on 23-25 July

The workshop was organized by the e-Government Branch and Public Administration Capacity Branch of DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM).

At the African Ministerial Workshop on 24 July, Namibia’s Deputy Prime Minister expressed interest in collaborating with DPADM/ DESA, through the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) on e-government related issues. Additionally, the Seychelles, which ranked first in e-government development in the African region, requested UNPOG’s technical advice and support from the Korean Government in exploring relevant public and private institutions as well as applicable technologies.

These were the results of presentations made on “Enhanced Public Service Delivery Using ICT” and “Leadership in E-Government Development” by DPADM’s affiliate, UNPOG, as part of the workshop.

For more information:
[DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management \(DPADM\)](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

MDG Gap Task Force Report 2012: The Global Partnership for Development: Making Rhetoric a Reality



To be launched the third week of September, the report notes that out of the 23 donors that are members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC), 16 reduced their aid in 2011. This was mainly as a result of fiscal constraints due to the current economic crisis, negatively affecting their official development assistance (ODA)

budgets.

The MDG Gap Task Force was created by the UN Secretary-General to improve the monitoring of the global commitments contained in MDG 8, the Global Partnership for Development. Its main purpose is to systematically track existing international commitments and to identify gaps and obstacles at the international and country level in the areas of official development assistance, market access (trade), debt sustainability, access to essential medicines and new technologies.

The Task Force integrates more than 20 UN agencies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the OECD, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO). UNDP and DESA are the lead agencies in coordinating the work of the Task Force.

To download:

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

Statistical compilations

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



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

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In addition to regular monthly tables, this issue includes the following quarterly and annual tables:

36. Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars

40. World exports by provenance and destination

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

Meeting records

Report on the Eleventh Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

The Report and Resolution on the Eleventh session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), which was held from 16-20 April 2012, and the Provisional Agenda for the next CEPA meeting in April of 2013 were recently adopted at ECOSOC's annual substantive session which ended on 27 July, 2012. The main issues of the resolution for consideration by the Council were:

- To take note with appreciation of the conclusions and recommendations of the report of CEPA in its eleventh session on local public governance and administration for results, particularly the special emphasis on the role of citizens' engagement, human capital development, including training and education of public servants, and fair allocation of resources in strengthening governance at all levels, particularly the local level.
- To invite CEPA in the framework of the preparations for its twelfth session, to study the effect of specific practices in responsive and inclusive public governance on development, bearing in mind the need to promote high standards of public sector integrity, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, at national and local levels, to promote equal access to public services, and provide opportunities for all people to participate in the conduct of public affairs; and requests the Committee to convey the outcome of the study to the Council through its twelfth report in April 2013 with a view to assisting the process of preparing for deliberations on a post-2015 development agenda.
- To invite Member States and other institutional donors to consider contributing to the relevant trust funds of DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management, for extending its capacity building programmes and outreach activities, as

appropriate. Additionally, the resolution requests the Secretariat to: a) increase the scope and depth of its online and offline capacity development training and to further develop its Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS), b) give due recognition to innovative public sector initiatives by Member States through the promotion and strengthening of the UN Public Service Day and Public Service Awards, c) support the development of the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN) for partnership-building, knowledge dissemination and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in the area of public administration, and d) assist the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/11thSession/tabid/1505/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The latest issue notes that severe drought affecting large parts of the United States is having a damaging impact on crops and pushing up world food prices. The briefing also states that in response to slowing domestic growth and heightened uncertainty over the global outlook, monetary authorities in emerging economies are increasingly moving towards a more supportive policy stance.

To download:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_mb.shtml

Websites

UN Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda



The UN Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda website, prepared by DESA's Division for Development Policy and Analysis, includes all the information, publications and key resources related to the UN System Task Team which

aims to coordinate preparations for the development agenda beyond the MDG deadline of 2015 and support the work of the High-level Panel that the Secretary-General has appointed.

To browse:

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

Comings and Goings

Comings



Mr. Wu Hongbo assumed the office of Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on 1 August 2012, following his appointment to this position by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 31 May. “I am honoured for the opportunity to serve the United Nations and I look forward to working closely with DESA colleagues in the coming years,” Mr. Wu said in a message to DESA staff on his first day in the office.

Prior to joining the United Nations as head of DESA, Mr. Wu was Ambassador of China to Germany. Mr. Wu brings over 30 years of experience in international relations. A veteran diplomat with his broad experience and numerous leadership roles, Mr. Wu will guide DESA’s normative, analytical and capacity development work, especially as it advances towards a post-2015 development framework with sustainable development at its core.



Mr. Barney Cohen joined the Population Division in the position of Chief of the Population Studies Branch. Mr. Cohen comes to the UN from the National Academy of Sciences, where he was Director of the Committee on Population, designing and executing a programme of work aimed at strengthening science-based population policy both domestically and internationally.

He has worked on a very wide variety of domestic and international topics, covering the full range of demographic issues. In addition to supervising the organization of countless scientific meetings and workshops of the U.S. Academy of Sciences and the publication of over thirty books and numerous shorter reports, he has also co-authored close to three dozen journal articles or chapters in books.

The following staff members were promoted in August:

Michael Behrman, Information Systems Officer, Statistics Division

Xinxin Cai, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Fred Doulton, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Marie Oveissi, Chief, Capacity Development Office

Michael Platz, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development office

Maria Stella Simpas, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Man Mohan Soni, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Calendar

September

Expert group meeting on “Harnessing the Cooperative Advantage to Build a Better World”

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 4-6 September
<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/>

High-level expert group meeting on “Promoting people’s empowerment in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”

New York, 10-12 September
<http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2013/EGMempowerment.aspx>

Workshop on population projections for French speaking African countries

Rabat, Morocco, 10-14 September
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/docs.htm>

Fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

New York, 12-14 September
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=46&pid=1595>

General Assembly, 67th session

New York, 18 September - 31 December
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>

ECOSOC Special Ministerial Meeting

New York, 24 September
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>

October

International Day of Older Persons

6 October
<http://www.un.org/en/events/olderpersonsday/>

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, Eighth session

Geneva, 15-19 October
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/eighthsession/index.htm>

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

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

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