

**In 2010, ECOSOC will address the topics of Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women and Development Cooperation**

**FROM GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION**



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**T**HE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) serves as the central forum for the discussion of international economic, social, humanitarian and environmental issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. Through these discussions, the Council plays a key role in fostering international cooperation for development and in setting priorities for action.

The Council coordinates the economic, social and related work of the United Nations Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies, and holds throughout the year several short sessions, *ad hoc* meetings, round-tables and panel discussions with the participation of non-governmental stakeholders, to prepare for its four-week substantive session in July. The work of the Council is also carried out by the activities of its subsidiary and related bodies.

#### The Members of the Bureau of ECOSOC

##### President of ECOSOC

H.E. Ambassador  
Hamidon Ali (Malaysia)

##### Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC

H.E. Ambassador  
Heraldo Muñoz (Chile)

H.E. Ambassador  
Somduth Soborun (Mauritius)

H.E. Ambassador Alexandru  
Cujba (Republic of Moldova)

H.E. Ambassador  
Morten Wetland (Norway)



Sylvie Lucas (second from right), Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations and outgoing President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), hands the ECOSOC gavel—symbolizing the Council's Presidency—to Hamidon Ali, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and new President of ECOSOC for 2010.

## PAST EVENTS

### ECOSOC

#### Malaysian Diplomat Elected Sixty-Sixth President of UN Economic and Social Council, 19 January 2010

Malaysian Ambassador **Hamidon Ali** has been elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as its 66th President, succeeding Ambassador Sylvie Lucas of Luxembourg.

Mr. Ali is a career diplomat and has been a two-time Ambassador of Malaysia to the United Nations. He also served as Malaysia's Ambassador to Indonesia, and High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore.

Addressing the 54-member body after his election, the Malaysian diplomat outlined ECOSOC's work for 2010, and called for special attention on the situation in Haiti.

"I must start by pledging the strong support of ECOSOC to Haiti and its People who have been pummeled by a series of crises, the most recent being the devastating earthquake, which hit the country

about a week ago," Mr. Ali said, noting that the Council and its Group on Haiti would have to see how to support the country in this difficult time. Outgoing President Sylvie Lucas also expressed her deepest sympathy to the people of Haiti in wake of the devastating earthquake.

Mr. Ali urged ECOSOC to continue strengthening its role and capacity to respond to emerging issues and crises. "The Council should continue to provide a forum to enhance understanding of the implications of all crises on development efforts and to promote and enhance a coordinated response of the United Nations system," he said, underlining that the challenge is to follow up on current and future crises and to promote initiatives to mitigate their impact and prevent more disastrous consequences.

Highlighting the theme of the **2010 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR)**, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women," Mr. Ali said that the Council will put the spotlight on the gender-related Millennium De-

velopment Goals (MDGs), tackle the challenges that hamper their achievement and highlight those dimensions that need to be taken into account for the implementation of effective policies.

Mr. Ali announced the participation of 13 countries which will make their National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) during the 2010 AMR, noting that global, regional and national perspectives can strengthen ECOSOC's accountability and implementing role.

He also announced that ECOSOC will also hold its second **Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)** in July 2010. "In the current financial crisis and the concomitant implications for the global aid architecture, the work of the DCF has become even more urgent," he said, stressing his hope that the 2010 DCF process will produce sound practical results and policy recommendations in key areas of development cooperation.

Mr. Ali also said that he will make every effort to ensure the highest quality and relevance of the work of the Council in the achievement of the United Nations Development Agenda, including the MDGs. In that context, he confirmed the readiness of the Council to play a key role in the upcoming General Assembly High-Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, to be held in September 2010.

Outgoing President, Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, in highlighting some of the achievements of 2009, **noted** that the International Conference on the World Economic and Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which was held in New York last June, reiterated the importance of the coordinating



*Ambassador Hamidon Ali, Sixty-sixth President of ECOSOC*

role of the Council to the crisis. "A continuing challenge for the Council will be to strengthen this role and ensure that the Council continues to coordinate the response of the United Nations system to any such future crises in a decisive and effective manner".

Ms. Lucas also noted the ongoing efforts to strengthen the interaction and the institutional links between ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). She called on this relationship to be reinforced in the years ahead, as the Council has an important role to play in peacebuilding and post-conflict development.

Also during the meeting, the Council elected its vice-presidents, Heraldo Muñoz of Chile, Somduth Soborun of Mauritius, Alexandru Cujba of Moldova, and Morten Wetland of Norway.

### **Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) for Africa on Women and Health, 12-13 January 2010**

**A** regional preparatory meeting on the theme "Women and Health" was held on 12-13 January 2010 in Dakar, Senegal in advance

of the 2010 Annual Ministerial Review. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Senegal, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). A broad cross section of more than 150 regional stakeholders gathered to discuss challenges, trends, policies and programmes on women and health in Africa, which faces some of the highest maternal mortality rates and HIV/AIDS rates in the world. A special session was also held to showcase best practices and new initiatives from across the region.

Several key recommendations emerged from the meeting. On maternal health, participants called for a continuum of antenatal, obstetric and post-partum care. In addition, the role of midwives and traditional birth attendants needs to be strengthened to address the severe shortage of medical staff, particularly in rural areas. On HIV/AIDS, participants stressed that prevention, treatment and care must be integrated within the context of sexual and reproductive health services to reverse the spread of the disease. Concurrently, greater women's empowerment is necessary for achieving improved health outcomes, with spillover effects for families, communities and societies. A recurrent message was that women's health is dependent on breaking down the cultural and social barriers that prevent women from participating in all decision-making processes. Men and boys must be engaged in this process, to change harmful stereotypes that





Participants at the Dakar meeting

prohibit both women and men from reaching their fullest potential.

### AMR e-discussion on Women and Poverty, 11 January – 12 February 2010

An e-discussion on Women and Poverty (11 January – 12 February 2010) was organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) as part of the preparatory process for the ECOSOC 2010 Annual Ministerial Review and the Commission on the Status of Women's 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Generating more than 120 responses from practitioners, experts and policy-makers from 47 countries, and inspiring 846 new

members to join UNDP online-networks, the e-discussion presented an opportunity for the broader development community to share their experiences and formulate critical policy messages to the United Nations intergovernmental decision-making.

Key messages, drawn from the interactive online-debate, include: (i) Advance women's economic empowerment through focused labor market measures that promote social inclusion, and address the right of women to land tenure, property, and inheritance; (ii) Recognize the interconnectedness of gender, violence and development, and actively reduce violence against women; (iii) Improve maternal health through providing universal access to healthcare and implementing targeted programmes in rural areas; (iv) Strengthen ac-



Woman getting water from a deep well in Tomboberi, Niger.

countability to women through fulfilling already made commitments on gender equality and supporting civil society organizations; (v) Build in-country capacity to generate and use sex-disaggregated data; and (vi) Mitigate the negative impacts of the financial and economic crisis on poor women and men. In addition to these topics, the online forum explored issues, such as food security and women farmers, education and skill development, and vulnerability and social protection.

### Annual meeting of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairpersons of the functional commissions, 29 January 2010

The annual meeting between the chairpersons of the functional commissions and the bureau of ECOSOC was held on 29 January 2010. The discussion focused mainly on how the functional commissions could contribute to the Council's 2010 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) theme of gender equality and women's empowerment. Some of the main proposals included the following:

- » joint panel discussions on issues relating to the theme of gender equality and empowerment of women;
- » the holding of side events on the AMR theme during the high-level segment
- » addresses by the chairpersons of the functional commissions to the Council during the AMR on their respective efforts in support of the AMR theme.

The meeting also provided an op-

portunity for an exchange of views on issues of mutual concern in an effort to strengthen policy coherence between the Council and its subsidiary machinery, as well as on how it could enhance its contribution to the Council's role as the principle body in overseeing the overall implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

### ECOSOC Special Event on “Engaging philanthropy to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment”, 22 February 2010

Over 500 people met at United Nations Headquarters last February to examine new ways that the private sector and philanthropists could help empower women around the world.

The special event of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on “Engaging Philanthropy on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”, was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) in collaboration with the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP) and the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The event attracted prominent members of the business, political and entertainment communities.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon **emphasized** that all corporate entities and individuals had an important role to play in helping achieve the third millennium development goal.

“To the private sector, we look to you to exercise even more leadership for gender equal-

ity, starting from the top. We need you to promote education, support human rights and non-discrimination, empower women through all levels of corporate responsibility,” Mr Ban said.

“To the philanthropy community, we look to you to target women with your programs. Make sure that female beneficiaries are treated equally, work to ensure that their communities, homes, schools and work places are free of verbal, physical or sexual harassment.”

“But, without leadership and political will, the world will fall short of taking these practical steps and meeting the goal we agreed to achieve by 2015”.

Mr. Ali also urged the philanthropic community to be more proactive with the Council. “Partnerships are the lynchpin for advancing the **Millennium Development Goals**, and there is no doubt that these will not be reached by 2015 if we do not work together for their realisation,” he said.



*Ambassador Hamidon Ali, President of ECOSOC, delivers his statement*

ECOSOC President Hamidon Ali of Malaysia **said** that the economic and financial crisis has further deepened gender equality, as the downturn has affected women and men, girls and boys differently. “Increasing natural calamities and their manifold impact pose further challenges towards bringing about gender equality, by creating new hurdles for the advancement of women,” Mr. Ali said.

He pointed out that there are many practical steps and actions that can be taken to reduce gender inequalities, and empower women.

**Ms. Sarah Ferguson**, Duchess of York, and **Ms. Geena Davis**, Academy Award-winning actor delivered the keynote addresses. The audience comprised of Member States, representatives of the United Nations system, senior giving officers from philanthropic organizations and the private sector, as well as other civil society organizations.

The opening plenary was followed by two dialogues on “ending violence against women and girls” and “promoting women’s economic empowerment”.



**Presentation of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010 by the Development Policy and Analysis Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, at the organizational session of ECOSOC**

“The world economy is on the mend, but the recovery is uneven across countries and conditions for sustained growth remain fragile, requiring continued policy supports”, said Rob Vos, the Director of Development Policy and Analysis Division of DESA, during his presentation of the **World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010 (WESP)**.

WESP is a joint product of DESA, the UNCTAD and the five United Nations regional commissions. It provides an overview of recent global economic performance and short-term prospects for the world economy and of some key global economic policy and development issues. One of its purposes is to serve as a point of reference for discussions on economic, social and related issues taking place in various United Nations entities during the year.

According to the report, world gross product fell by 2.2 per cent for 2009, the first contraction since the Second World War. Since the second half of 2009, an increasing number of countries have registered positive quarterly growth of GDP, along with a notable recovery in international trade and global industrial production. World financial market conditions have also improved. Premised on a continued supportive policy stance worldwide, WESP forecasts a mild global growth of 2.4 per cent for 2010.

The report cautions that despite these encouraging headline figures, credit conditions are still tight in major developed economies. The rebound in domestic demand remains tentative at best in many economies and is far from self-sustaining. Much of the rebound in the real economy is due to the strong fiscal stimulus provided by Governments in a large number of developed and developing countries and to the restocking of inventories by industries worldwide. Consumption and investment demand remain weak, however, as unemployment and underemployment rates continue to rise and output gaps remain wide in most countries.

The report also highlights a number of risks and uncertainties to the outlook, including a premature exit from the stimulus measures and a hard landing of the dollar due to the renewed widening of the global imbalances. The report recommends continued fiscal stimulus measures in the short run, a continued focus on the rebalancing of economic growth in a number of respects, better policy coordination, strengthened global governance and more decisive reforms of the global financial system.

**Special meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs), World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 18-19 March 2010**

The Special High-level Meeting of ECOSOC with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD was held on 18-19 March 2010 in New York. In

accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2009/30, this year's meeting was held five weeks before the BWI Spring Meetings in April, in contrast to previous years, when ECOSOC meetings were usually held immediately following those of the BWIs. The historically one-day meeting was also extended to two days this year and organized using innovative modalities in the form of three informal interactive debates. Following presentations on behalf of the heads of the intergovernmental bodies of the relevant institutions (Development Committee, IMFC, Trade and Development Board and WTO), each debate sought to promote, through strict time management, an open and constructive exchange of views and experiences among various stakeholders of the Financing for Development (FFD) process.

Despite the changed timing, an unprecedented number of 26 Executive Directors, Alternates and Advisors from the World Bank and IMF participated actively in the discussions and expressed commitment to promoting closer relations between their organizations and ECOSOC. The Dean of the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank extended an invitation to the President of ECOSOC to present the results of this meeting to the Development Committee of the BWIs next April, which was accepted by the President. This is an important step towards increasing the visibility of ECOSOC as well as enhancing UN-BWI cooperation at the intergovernmental level. It was also emphasized that a regular ongoing dialogue between the BWIs and ECOSOC was needed.

The overall theme of the meet-

ing was “Building on Monterrey and Doha: achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”. The three interactive thematic debates focused on: 1) “Mobilizing domestic and international resources to fund existing and emerging MDG implementation gaps”; 2) “Supporting rehabilitation, recovery and development efforts of developing countries with special needs and those facing humanitarian emergency situations”; and 3) “Enhancing coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development”. Each debate featured two senior staff of the World Bank, UNCTAD and UN-DESA presenting preview of their respective flagship publications, followed by an interactive discussion. The main substantive points of the discussion were summarized by the President of ECOSOC in his concluding remarks and are available on the FfD website. The President's summary will be issued at a later date and will be available on the same website.

## **B - ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies**

### **Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, 2010 Regular Session, 25 January - 3 February 2010**

The 19 members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations met for its 2010 Regular Session from 25 January to 3 February 2010 at the United Nations Headquarters. It reviewed

242 applications from NGOs for consultative status, of which it recommended 76. About 60% of the applications were from organizations from developing countries and covered a wide range of expertise on the MDGs, including on health, education, environment, HIV/AIDS, women's rights, gender issues, humanitarian initiatives and human rights. As part of its monitoring role, the Committee also reviewed 173 quadrennial reports from NGOs already in special and general consultative status with ECOSOC and took note of 170 of those reports. The Committee's recommendations will be considered by the Council at the ECOSOC annual Substantive Session in July 2010.

In accordance with ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, the Committee is tasked with considering applications from NGOs worldwide for consultative status with the objective of enabling NGOs to: (i) contribute to the ECOSOC agenda; (ii) participate more effectively in the work of the ECOSOC including through attendance in meetings, consultations and contributions to the Secretary General's reports; and (iii) disseminate the work of the Council, including at the country level. To enhance the role of civil society as important partners in development, the work of the Committee is intended to strengthen their participation in the intergovernmental process and thereby facilitate the substantive contribution of civil society to the work of the United Nations and in the implementation of the UN development agenda.

The resumed session of the Committee on NGOs will be held from 26 May to 4 June 2010 with

an equally heavy workload which could potentially include: about 250 or more applications and about 250 quadrennial reports for the Committee's consideration.

### **Commission for Social Development, 48th Session, 3 - 12 February 2010**

The Commission for Social Development held its forty-eighth session from 3 to 12 February 2010 and focused on the priority theme of “social integration”. It discussed policy options and practical measures to facilitate the implementation of the goal of enhancing social integration. The Commission adopted the first resolution on “Promoting social integration” since it was recognized as one of the three pillars of social development at the World Summit for Social Development 15 years ago, along with poverty eradication and employment creation. The resolution recognizes the role social protection plays in eradicating poverty and promoting social integration. It encourages Governments to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy. It also encourages Governments to give due consideration to developing national evaluation frameworks for social development, including possible benchmarks and indicators to measure social integration and the well-being of the population. It further calls on the UN system to support national efforts to achieve social development, in particular in fostering social integration at all levels in a coherent, coordinated



and results-based manner, giving mandate to UN system-wide co-operation to “operationalize” social integration principles.

The Commission held high-level panel discussions to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Copenhagen Summit as well as on the priority theme of social integration, taking into account the relationship with poverty eradication and full employment and decent work for all. Under the agenda item on “Emerging issues”, the Commission discussed policy responses on employment and the social consequences of the financial and economic crisis, including its gender dimension.

The Commission adopted other resolutions on “Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda”, “Future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2012”, and “Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. It was also decided that the priority theme for the next two-year implementation cycle will be “Poverty eradication”.



Hamidon Ali (on the right), Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council, addresses the 48th session of the Commission for Social Development, on the theme “Social Integration”.

### Statistical Commission, 41st Session, 23 - 26 February 2010

The Forty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission took place from 23-26 February 2010 in New York. The Commission continues its work as the leading body of the global statistical system, especially in the area of developing international standards and methods for official statistics. During the 2010 session, new technical norms in the area of international trade statistics were before the Commission for formal approval. Furthermore, the Commission focused on an in-depth programme review of the field of “National Quality Assessment Frameworks”, which has been prepared, as in past years, by a memberstate, namely Statistics Canada. Further key items on the agenda included the implementation of the new international standards of national accounting, the revision of the UN framework for environment statistics, the integration of geographical and statistical information systems, statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean and a discussion on the ongoing improvements in compiling MDG indicators. The Commission also endorsed the proposal to celebrate a professional World Statistics Day on 20-10-2010.

The Commission session was accompanied by a comprehensive programme of side events, allowing delegates to discuss cutting edge topics, such as a one-day seminar on “Emerging Trends In Data Communication and Dissemination”, three Learning Centres, focusing on: (i) Environmental Statistics and Environmental Accounting, (ii)

CensusInfo and (iii) Country Practices in applying SDMX (Standard Data and Metadata Exchange). Also a “High Level Forum on Official Statistics - Are National Statistical Systems Effective” was very well attended and produced a lively debate.

### Commission on the Status of Women, 54th Session, 1 - 12 March 2010

The 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place from 1 – 12 March 2010. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work, the Commission (a) reviewed the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with an emphasis on the sharing of experiences and good practices with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges; and (b) reviewed its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals. More than 3,400 NGO representatives from 138 countries attended the session, representing 464 organizations. A total of 174 speakers, including 56 Ministers, participated in the high-level plenary.

The Commission held a high-level round table to exchange experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Seven interactive expert panels provided ample opportunity for highlighting good practices and effective actions in linking the implementation of the



A wide view of the Commission on the Status of Women as it opens its fifty-fourth session. The Commission's 2010 session marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a landmark policy framework for gender equality.

Platform to the achievement of the MDGs, and in regard to women's economic empowerment and violence against women. Regional perspectives, national mechanisms for gender equality, and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women were also examined. The panels' moderators prepared summaries of the discussion and of the recommendations for further action.

The Commission adopted a Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women. This Declaration sends a strong political message of commitment to the implementation of the Platform for Action. In addition to regular resolutions (on Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS; Release of women and children taken hostage; The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; and Ending female genital mutilation), the Commission also adopted three new resolutions, on: Women's economic empowerment; Eliminating maternal mortality and morbid-

ity through the empowerment of women; and Strengthening institutional arrangement of the UN for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity.

The Chair's summary of the high-level roundtable and the Moderator's summaries of three panels will be transmitted to the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (i.e. those on: Linkages between implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and achievement of the MDGs; Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis; and Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women).

### **Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 53rd Session, 8 - 12 March 2010**

The fifty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs took place from 8 to 12 March 2010 in Vienna. This year, the

topic of the Commission's thematic debate was "Balanced approach to reducing drug demand and supply and measures to enhance awareness of the different aspects of the world drug problem, including by improving understanding of how to tackle the problem".

The Commission adopted sixteen resolutions and focused its work, *inter alia*, on raising awareness about the risks of abusing drugs, on improving the understanding of drug addiction as a chronic health disorder and on the importance of research and data collection. The Commission also decided to re-schedule phenylacetic acid by transferring the substance from Table II to Table I of the United Nations Convention on Illicit Drug Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

## **INCOMING EVENTS/ ACTIVITIES**

### **A - ECOSOC**

**Global Preparatory Process, (Annual Ministerial Review; Development Cooperation Forum), 22 April 2010**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will address the issues of gender equality, empowerment of women, and development cooperation at its High-level Segment, to be held in June 2010 in New York.

In preparation for these discussions, the Council will organize a series of preparatory meetings. The first of these meetings, which is being organized by FAO and IFAD, in



collaboration with WFP, the World Bank, UNIFEM, Heifer International, WOCAN, and the Hunger Project, will address the topic “Who feeds the World in 2010 and Beyond: Rural women as Agents of Change and Champions of Global Food Security”. The event will take place on 22 April, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The objective of the session is to increase awareness and understanding of the critical role of rural women in agricultural development and food security for the achievements of IADGs, in particular the MDGs. In addition, it is expected that the meeting will generate a critical mass for action and collaboration through broader engagement and dialogue on rural women's economic and social roles among various stakeholders (governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector, foundations) and strengthen ECOSOC's role as a strategic and pro-active intergovernmental forum at the forefront of global policy making. The meeting will also serve to highlight areas for further work with respect to the Council's Ministerial Declaration of 2003 on Rural Development.

The second meeting, which will take place on 22 April, from 3 to 6 p.m., in conference room 4, will serve as a preparatory event for the Development Cooperation Forum. DESA's Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang will open the meeting, which will explore the role of aid in mitigating the impact of the financial and economic crisis on achieving national development goals and the MDGs. It will initiate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on questions such as decisions on aid allocations in the context of multiple crises, the possible cost of marginalizing “aid orphans” in favor

of “aid darlings”, and the need for a renewed firm commitment by donors to restore stability and prosperity in the global economy. Key policy messages and good practices emanating from this discussion will serve to inform the consultative process and analytical preparations for the 2010 DCF and beyond.

### National Voluntary Presentation workshops

National Workshops are held by countries that have volunteered to give National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) during the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) at the 2010 High-level Segment of ECOSOC. The Workshops are intended to assist countries in assessing the implementation of their national development strategies and of the United Nations Development Agenda (UNDA) and in preparing their national report and presentation to the AMR. Workshops are country-led, with support from DESA for developing countries.

In preparation for the 2010 NVPs, DESA recently participated in a National Workshops held in Namibia on 24-25 February 2010. Other participants included government policy makers from the National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as other representatives from the United Nations system and experts and representatives from think-tanks, academia and civil society. Topics addressed during the Workshop included an assessment of the implementation of Namibia's national development strategy, identification of strengths and gaps in the imple-

mentation process, building national capacity and scaling up successes and engaging the international community.

In addition to the National Workshop of Namibia, DESA also provided support to the National Workshop of Moldova in December 2009, and will be providing support to Guatemala, Mongolia and the Republic of the Congo in early 2010. These countries are among the 13 who will be giving NVPs at the 2010 AMR. The other 2010 NVP countries are Australia, Brazil, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea and the United States.

### DCF Regional Preparations: “Coherent Development Cooperation: Maximizing impact towards existing commitments in a Changing Environment”—Finland, 3-4 June 2010

In preparation of the Development Cooperation forum (DCF), a High-level Symposium will be held on 3-4 June 2010 in Helsinki, co-hosted by UNDESA and the Government of Finland, entitled “Coherent Development Cooperation: Maximizing Impact in a Changing Environment”. The symposium will foster discussions among a wide range of stakeholders (senior government officials from DAC and non-DAC donors and programme countries engaged in development cooperation and aid management, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, and the private sector) to promote pragmatic solutions to make development cooperation more coherent.

Against the backdrop of the multiple crises and to improve the

impact of development cooperation on the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, the symposium will discuss challenges in building coherence in the range of policies affecting development cooperation. It will highlight the significant role of foundations, civil society and the private sector in development cooperation; discuss the positive impact that national mutual accountability mechanisms can have on effective aid delivery and development partnerships; and promote a more concerted effort in achieving gender-related development goals. The key messages of the symposium will inform the proceedings of the second DCF, which will be held under the aegis of ECOSOC on 29 and 30 June in New York.

## B - ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies

### Commission on Population and Development, 43rd Session, 12 - 16 April 2010

The Commission on Population and Development will hold its 43rd session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 16 April 2010. The Commission, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/128, monitors, reviews and assesses the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The special theme of the session is "Health, morbidity, mortality and development". The Commission will consider two reports on the special theme: the

general monitoring report and the monitoring report on programmes. Member States will also review progress made in the area of health during their general debate on national experience.

Three keynote speakers have been invited to address the Commission. At noon, on Monday 12 April, Mr. Eduard Bos, Lead Population Specialist at the World Bank, will speak on "Population trends, health outcomes and development". Dr. Carissa Etienne, Assistant Director-General of WHO, will speak on "Strengthening health systems to address current and future challenges in public health" at noon on Tuesday 13 April and at noon on Wednesday 14 April, Mr. Barry Popkin, Ms. Carla Smith Chamblee, distinguished Professor of Global Nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will speak on "Global economic and health change: problems and solutions."

At 10 a.m. on Thursday 15 April, the Commission will consider the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2010, namely, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women". The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Hamidon Ali, is expected to address the Commission and representatives of the Member States making national presentations at the annual ministerial review will be invited to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Commission.

The Commission will also review the implementation of the programme of work of the Popula-

tion Division in 2009 and consider the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 relative to the subprogramme on population.

### Committee of Experts on Public Administration, 9th Session, 19 - 23 April 2010

In its ninth annual session, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) will focus on the current challenges to and opportunities for public administration in the context of the financial and economic crisis (E/C.16/2010/2). This will include discussions among the experts on how to enhance public governance for fast and coordinated policy response, center public service delivery around citizens, increase transparency and responsive accountability, and improve social and financial protection for vulnerable groups.

In addition, the Committee will examine the 2010 Annual Ministerial Review Theme by focusing on how public administration can include women more actively in the development of information and communications technology (ICT) tools with the aim of strengthening their participation in economic and political processes (E/C.16/2010/4).

The Committee will also review the main activities implemented during the biennium 2009-2010 and planned for the biennium 2010-2011 under the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (E/C.16/2010/3).

The Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) serves as the



Secretariat for CEPA. The Division promotes effective, efficient, transparent, accountable and citizen-oriented public administrations in the following areas: institutional and human resources capacity development, electronic/mobile-Government development, and citizen engagement and development management.

### **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 9th Session, 19 - 30 April 2010**

The ninth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will take place in New York from 19 to 30 April 2010. The special theme of the ninth session will be "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity; articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". The special regional focus of the Forum will be on indigenous peoples of the North America region, comprising Canada and the USA.

Based on its new methodology of organizing in-depth dialogues with United Nations agencies, during its ninth session, the Forum will hold such a dialogue with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Forum will also engage in separate dialogues with the Governments of Bolivia and Paraguay. The dialogues will focus on the implementation of recommendations issued by the Permanent Forum following its 2009 mission to each country, focused on the forced labor situation faced by the Guarani peoples of the Chaco region. Representatives of the Guarani and the United Nations agencies working in the two

countries will also participate in the dialogue. The Permanent Forum will also hold a discussion on forests and indigenous peoples.

A large number of participants are expected for the ninth session, including some 30 UN and other inter-governmental organizations and some 70 governments. Approximately 1,300 representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, NGOs and academic institutions have pre-registered to attend the session as observers.

The Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of indigenous people as well as a representative of the Expert Mechanism on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples will also participate at the session.

### **Commission on Sustainable Development, 18th Session, 3 - 4 May 2010**

As the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) readies for its annual session this May 2010, it has undertaken a number of new and innovative steps to ensure a more effective and coordinated approach to global policy on sustainable development.

Since the beginning of this year, and through the support of the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), a Thematic Seminar Series was launched that featured five capacity building seminars each focused on a theme in the new bi-annual cycle – Mining, Chemicals, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Transport and Waste Management. The output of each session was complemented by electronic discussion groups and will be used to inform discourse dur-

ing the formal session. The Commission has also organized four inter-session meetings focused primarily on waste, chemicals and transport as well as five regional review meetings that will also enrich the dialogue set to take place this Spring.

This year's session of the Commission will review challenges as well as best practices in the five thematic areas but will also mark the closing of the Marrakech Process and the beginning of debate on the ten Year Framework of Activities on Sustainable Consumption and Production. It will also consider Partnerships during its plenary, as well as host an annual learning center, partnerships fair and side-events schedule. This May's session will be bookmarked by the Small Island Developing States Prep-Com for the review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation as well as the first Prep-Com for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) set for 2012.

The High-level Segment of the session will be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, including statements by eminent experts in the area of sustainable development. This segment will also include ministerial dialogue with the heads of United Nations agencies and governing bodies of the UN system organizations; four Ministerial roundtables covering thematic areas of the present cluster; and a segment on Ministerial vision for the way forward.

With the international community gearing up for a conference marking the twentieth anniversary of the historic Earth Summit and

Agenda 21, the Commission has also been diligently working to hasten and improve implementation of the decisions taken under its auspices. This past February, it held a 'Multistakeholder Dialogue on Implementing Sustainable Development' that featured participation by current and past CSD chairs, Member States, Development Banks, the Major Groups and implementing partners. Their stocktaking and discussions went on to shape a Seven Point Strategy meant to fast-track implementation of CSD decisions.

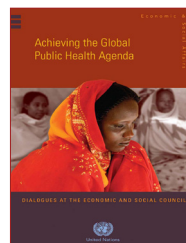
### Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 17-21 May 2010

The nineteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will take place in Vienna from 17 to 21 May 2010. The themes of the Commission's thematic discussion will be "Economic fraud and identity-related crime" and "Penal reform and the reduction of prison overcrowding, including the provision of legal aid in criminal justice systems". At the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, just prior to the nineteenth session of the Commission, one of the main topics to be discussed will be violence against women, which was the main focus of the Commission's work at its 18th session in 2009.

## IV - PUBLICATIONS

### Dialogues at the Economic and Social Council - Achieving the Global Public Health Agenda

This book presents the key debates that took place during the 2009 High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council on the global public health agenda. This publication brings together the proceedings – statements, issues papers, summaries of roundtables and other discussions – of the ECOSOC session. It also presents highlights of the innovations featured at the Innovation Fair; the discussions at the NGO Forum, and Ministerial roundtable breakfasts.



### Reconstructing Public Administration after Conflict: Challenges, Practices and Lessons Learned

A new publication from the United Nations Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPA DM) brings to the fore the critical issue of how to reconstruct public administration in post-conflict situations. It shows that no progress can be made in promoting peace and development unless appropriate



## MORE INFORMATION

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ate governance and public administration institutions are established, leadership and human resources capacities re-built, citizens engaged in the process of reconstruction, and basic public services delivered.

The publication also explores strategies adopted by governments for engaging women in reconstruction processes, including decentralization, establishing gender mechanisms setting quotas, promoting leadership skills development and using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).