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## Feature Articles

### Empowering youth for sustainable islands

*With less than two months until the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa on 1-4 September, Conference Secretary-General Wu Hongbo brought together youth representatives from small island nations for a Google+ Hangout on 24 July 2014. Under the topic, 'Samoa 2014: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Islands', young people from Mauritius, Barbados and Samoa were invited to discuss with Mr. Wu, issues of importance to achieve sustainable islands and a healthier planet.*



Watch the hangout on YouTube <http://bit.ly/1m1bbkv>

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have large youth populations. In 2014, about 27.4 per cent of the inhabitants of these nations were under the age of 15, with the exception of Singapore and Cuba. Like elsewhere in the world, many young people there face unemployment and other challenges related to economic development, such as a lack of access to quality education.

But despite challenges, this large youth population offers tremendous potential as a catalyst for positive change. Young people in these countries and their role to help promote and achieve sustainable development in their communities and beyond, were in focus at the Google+ Hangout hosted by Mr. Wu, who is also the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

#### Gearing up for milestone conference

"The voices and input of youth are critical for the upcoming Conference in Samoa, as well as for the ongoing work to shape and drive forward progress towards the post-2015 development agenda," Mr. Wu said ahead of the hangout event. Young people representing all three SIDS regions – the Pacific, the Caribbean, and the AIMS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea) regions – took part.

Mr. Wu began the online discussion by highlighting the importance of the upcoming conference, for Small Island Developing States and for the whole world. "It will seek a renewed political commitment and it will identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS," Mr. Wu explained, adding that it will also aim to identify priorities to be considered in the post-2015 development agenda. In addition to highlighting some of the

vulnerabilities that SIDS face, Mr. Wu also underscored the resourcefulness shown by this group of nations and how the global community needs to listen to and learn from them.

Moderator Matthias Klettermayer of UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development then opened the floor to the youth panel encouraging them to share their views on how youth can effectively contribute to the Conference and to the sustainable development agenda more broadly.

"Come prepared: Do your homework – know your topic and the policy issues," said Karuna Raana, Deputy Organising Partner for SIDS, UN Major Group of Children and Youth (UNMGCY). She advised interested participants to get to know the actors involved, to form strategic partnerships both with civil society organizations and with governments, and to make use of the UN Major Group of Children and Youth, which is the official constituency for young people to participate in sustainable development negotiations at the UN.

#### Issues that matters to youth

The need for capacity building, quality education and employment opportunities were some of the issues brought forward by Molly Homasi, UNMGCY focal point for Samoa/National Youth Council Representative. Involvement of youth in disaster risk management and promoting social inclusion were other topics of importance for youth in the Pacific region.

"Education is one of our top priorities," said Alex Cumberbatch, SIDS Youth Representative in Barbados, describing the views of youth in the Caribbean. "We see a need to improve our core training," he added, pointing to the need of efforts to stimulate entrepreneurship and to promote business development among young people. Among other issues of concern for youth in the Caribbean, he mentioned good governance, climate change, unemployment, healthcare and social protection.

Krishnee Appadoo, UNMGCY SIDS Focal Point for the AIMS region and SIDS Youth Representative for UNESCO, discussed a number of priority issues for young people. "We have identified some pressing concerns," she explained, pointing to such key issues as good and effective governance at all levels of government, the private sector and civil society engagement. Access to food and water, energy security and climate change were other concerns that youth in the AIMS region had expressed.

Ms. Appadoo also underscored the need for quality education, economic and employment opportunities as well as access to technology and IT connectivity. "We also really need to educate youth on environmental issues and sustainable development and provide youth with tools, strategies, grass root action plans, as well as technical know-how and financial means to start their own NGOs," she said.

#### Sharing questions with the Conference Secretary-General

During the hangout, the youth panel also shared their questions for the Conference Secretary-General. Among these included what steps are needed to ensure that the priorities of youth are included in the SIDS agenda and in the post-2015 development framework.

"The discussions we are having at the United Nations of the 193 Member States, is about people, about present and future generations," said Mr. Wu, underscoring the importance of the role of young people in the post-2015 era. Mr. Wu emphasized the need for quality education and productive employment, saying that without it "the international community, including SIDS, cannot achieve sustainable development".

Mr. Wu also highlighted strengthening active citizenships, respect for cultural diversity, preventing diseases and raising environmental consciousness, as well as entrepreneurship and innovation to create jobs. "I can ensure you that you, young people in SIDS, you have a great role to play in the future. Many of your concerns are covered in the outcome document, hence in the post-2015 development agenda," Mr. Wu added.

#### Towards Samoa and beyond

The hangout, which lasted more than an hour, touched upon many issues of importance for youth in SIDS, including capacity building and partnerships. Mr. Wu expressed his appreciation for this exchange. "I think many of the areas which they covered are very important," he said. "I heard several times that partnerships were mentioned," Mr. Wu added, referring to the fact that genuine and durable partnerships will be the main theme of the conference.

Molly Homasi, who joined the hangout from Apia, Samoa, also highlighted the launch of the SIDSTERS Youth Forum Campaign, happening online and via social media to highlight youth issues in the lead up to the conference's Youth Forum, which will be arranged on 28 August under the theme SIDS T.A.L.A.V.O.U. for Sustainable Development. The acronym stands for *Towards A Legacy of Achievement, Versatility, Opportunity through partnership and Unity*. About 200 young people from small island nations are anticipated to participate in this pre-conference forum.

Ms. Homasi also made an analogy describing how families in a community in the Pacific use the canoe – how it is the wise and older person who leads and steers, but that it is the energy of the young people who power the canoe. "The story of the canoe reminds us about sustainable development," she said. "We are all families on this great canoe of the world, journeying together towards a better future; it sails under your guidance as we [youth] paddle with our passion," Ms. Homasi concluded.

At the conclusion of the hangout, Mr. Wu noted his appreciation for the involvement of youth representatives from the three regions. “Your energy and your knowledge about the subject matter is very impressive,” he said thanking the panellists. As the Conference Secretary-General, Mr. Wu also shared his belief in the outcome of the conference.

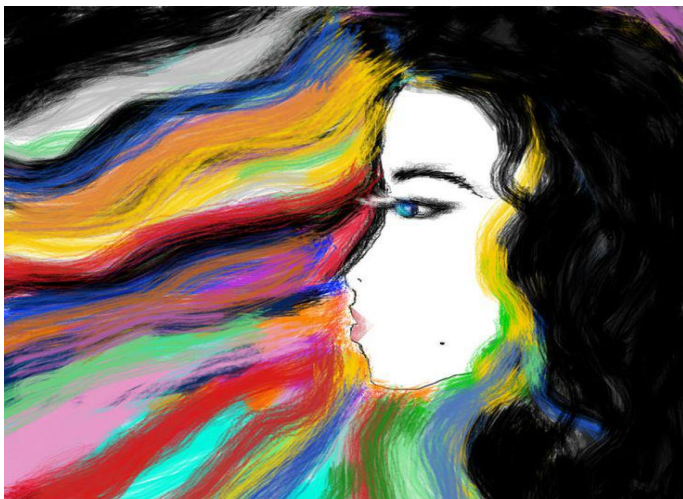
“The Third International Conference on SIDS will be a great success,” he said, pointing to the progress already made ahead of the event, and the fact that Member States have already reached consensus on the outcome document. As the live broadcast ended, Mr. Wu also expressed his belief in young people. “I was encouraged,” he said. “With young people like this, we have a great future”.

For more information:

[Samoa 2014: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Islands](#)  
[UN Conference on Small Island Developing States](#)  
[SIDS T.A.L.A.V.O.U. Pre-Conference Forum – Youth Forum](#)  
[VIDEO: Partnering with islands for a sustainable world](#)

## Mental health in focus for youth day celebrations

*Mental Health Matters is the theme of International Youth Day (IYD) 2014. Although an estimated 1 in 5 young people experience one or more mental health conditions, many are afraid to speak out and seek the support they need, due to the stigma doing so can entail. Taking place on 12 August, the IYD event will bring together young people, youth organizations, Member States, civil society and UN entities to discuss the issue of youth and mental health.*



Through UN DESA’s work on developing a technical paper on ‘the social inclusion of youth with mental health conditions’ in 2013, it was struck by overwhelming silence surrounding the issue of young people with mental health conditions, as well as a dearth of information and data on the issue. With this in mind UN DESA decided to shine a spotlight on this important issue, in an attempt to raise awareness and to reduce the stigma that so many young people are subject to. As such, UN DESA and its Inter-agency Network on Youth Development partners decided to commemorate IYD 2014 under the theme Mental Health Matters.

Since June, UN DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) has been drawing attention to this issue and discussing the importance of the social inclusion of young people with mental health conditions via its two-month online campaign in the lead up to International Youth Day. So far over 1,500 people have joined the campaign.

### IYD Mental Health Matters Campaign

The campaign, running from 12 June until 12 August under the tagline [#MentalHealthMatters](#), draws attention to the fact that youth with mental health conditions often experience stigma and discrimination, which in turn can lead to exclusion and/or discourage people from seeking help for fear of being negatively ‘labelled’. Efforts are needed to overcome this stigma to ensure that young people with mental health conditions can lead full and healthy lives free of isolation and unnecessary shame, and that they openly seek the services and support they need.

Throughout the campaign, young people have been asked to submit artwork, illustrations, photos and/or stories illustrating the positive impact that speaking out about mental health conditions can have on the lives of young people. So far over 170 individual submissions have been received, most in the form of illustrations and drawings.

Many of the submissions received will be showcased at the 12 August International Youth Day event at UN Headquarters. Online viewers can already take a sneak peek at selected submissions here on the IYD Pinterest account: <http://bit.ly/1rem07f>

### International Youth Day Event

Taking place in the ECOSOC Chamber from 10 am to 1 pm on 12 August, the IYD event is being co-organized by UN DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development and the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth. It will bring together young people, youth organizations, Member State representatives, civil society, and UN entities to discuss the issue of youth and mental-health in particular looking at issues such as the impact of stigma, discrimination and exclusion, on the local, country, and international levels.



Following opening remarks by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other high-level representatives, performances by young artists will be held in an effort to explore a variety of interactive and informative ways to draw awareness to the issue. In addition, panelists, including [Jordan Burnham](#) and [Alicia Raimundo](#), will talk about their own experiences with mental health conditions and the impact that speaking out and seeking support has had on their lives.

The event will officially launch the UN DESA publication *Mental Health Matters: the Social Inclusion of youth with mental health conditions*. For those interested to attend, but who do not hold a UN grounds pass, please RSVP [here](#).

#### Worldwide celebrations

Running until August 12, the UN DESA [#MentalHealthMatters](#) campaign, is encouraging young people to organize events to celebrate International Youth Day. The IYD [toolkit](#) gives some ideas on what to do to commemorate the Day. Young people and UN entities are also encouraged to tell UN DESA about their events, so it can be mapped on the IYD [Map of Events](#).

Read more about the event [here](#) or send any inquiries to [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org).

*Image credit: "Gathering Colours" submitted by Sonali Sukesh for the #MentalHealthMatters campaign*

For more information:

[International Youth Day Event](#)  
[UN4Youth on Twitter](#)  
[UN4Youth on Pinterest](#)  
[UN4Youth on Facebook](#)  
[UN4Youth on Instagram](#)

## UN General Assembly's Open Working Group proposes sustainable development goals

*The UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals forwarded to the Assembly its proposal for a set of Goals that consider economic, social and environmental dimensions to improve people's lives and protect the planet for future generations at the conclusion of the Group's thirteenth and final session at UN Headquarters on Saturday, 19 July.*



The proposal contains 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues, including ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests.

As stated by UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, "The proposal of the Open Working Group brings together a breadth of economic, social and environmental issues in a single set of goals like never before. All those involved in crafting these 17 goals can be proud of themselves. Member States have shown a determination and willingness to work together for people and planet that bodes well for the General Assembly's negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda."

In commenting on the outcome, UN DESA's Assistant Secretary-General Thomas Gass hailed it as a milestone, highlighting the key role played by the Co-Chairs Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary and Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya, the high-level engagement of Member States and the active involvement of civil society.

### The proposed sustainable development goals are:

**Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

**Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

**Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

**Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

challenges like environmental degradation and promote sustained and inclusive economic growth in poor countries if poverty eradication is to be irreversible.

The Group's proposal on goals will be considered by the in the upcoming General Assembly as part of the broader post-2015 development agenda that world leaders are expected to adopt at a Summit in September 2015.

For more information:

[Outcome Document – Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#)

### From Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. With a number of sub-targets covering a range of poverty, hunger, health, gender equality, education and environmental indicators, the MDGs were embraced by all UN Member States. Major progress at the global, regional, national and local level shows in the many millions of people whose lives have improved due to concerted, targeted efforts by many countries, groups and individuals. Several targets have already been met, such as halving the number of people living in extreme poverty. It is expected that more targets will be reached by the end of 2015 when most MDGs are set to be achieved.

World leaders have called for an ambitious long-term sustainability agenda to succeed the MDGs. The new agenda must address the unfinished business of the MDGs, beginning with the eradication of extreme poverty. Building on the successes of the MDGs, it will also need to address pressing global sustainable development

## Global Dialogue on Development

### Options for effective sustainable development financing strategy



*The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), established a year ago in follow-up to Rio+20, will hold its fifth and final session in New York from 4 to 8 August. During the session, the Committee will finalize its*

*report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy. A multi-stakeholder dialogue will be held during the session.*

The report of the Committee will lay out concrete policy options in the areas of domestic and international, public, private and blended finance, as well as the institutional enabling environment. The options will facilitate the mobilisation of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

The report will provide an important input to the UN Secretary-General's synthesis report on the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to the third International Conference on Financing for Development (13-16 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), the outcome of which should constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Committee just completed an informal retreat in Glen Cove, Long Island, held on 15-17 July 2014. During the retreat, Committee members had a discussion on the current draft report and made significant progress to strengthen its final version. Following the retreat, the Co-Chairs of the Committee held an open briefing on the progress of work of the Committee to Member States and non-state actors on Friday, 18 July.

For more information:

[Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing \(ICESDF\)](#)

## Implementing the rights of indigenous peoples



*The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August will be commemorated this year under the theme "Bridging the gap: implementing the rights of indigenous peoples". A special event will be held at UN Headquarters*

*on Friday, 8 August to celebrate the day.*

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was first proclaimed by the General Assembly in December 1994, to be celebrated every year during the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995 – 2004).

In 2004, the Assembly proclaimed a Second International Decade, from 2005 – 2014, with the theme of "A Decade for Action and Dignity." This year's theme, "Bridging the gap: implementing the rights of indigenous peoples", aims to highlight the importance of implementing the rights of indigenous peoples through policies and programmes at both the national and international level working together towards this common goal with Governments, the United Nations system, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders.

A special event will be arranged at UN Headquarters in New York on Friday, 8 August, from 3 to 6pm, featuring the UN Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Vice Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a delegate from a member State, a representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, and an indigenous representative. The event will be webcast live at [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org).

The event is organized by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in cooperation with the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

*Photo credit: Broddi Sigurdarson, UN DESA/UNPFII*

For more information:

[International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2014](#)



## Major Groups and other Stakeholders Forum on partnerships for SIDS



*As part of the preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to take place in Apia, Samoa on 1-4 September 2014, the Pre-Conference Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Forum will be held on the evening of the 28 and all day on 29 August 2014.*

The Forum will focus on identifying durable partnerships through which the sustainable development of SIDS can be promoted. The outcome of the Forum will help to inform the Conference plenary discussions and Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Dialogues.

The aim of the Forum is to provide a space for Major Groups, civil society and other stakeholders to receive final briefings on the upcoming conference, its relation to Rio+20, Post 2015, UNFCCC, Beijing+20 review and other upcoming regional and global multilateral follow-up processes, and to participate in joint advocacy and partnerships to support implementation of the Conference outcome. Registration to the Forum closed on July 31st.

For more information:

[Website of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#)

## ECOSOC holds coordination and management meeting



*The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held its coordination and management meeting addressing a number of issues on 14 – 16 July at UN Headquarters in New York.*

The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), which was introduced by Mr. Khalil Rahman, Principal Officer of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). The report was a progress report on the eighth priority

areas of the IPoA. It also included a special section on steps taken to promote mutual accountability as well as proposals to include the IPoA in the agenda of the Chief Executives Board (CEB).

### **Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020**

Seven delegations took part in the general discussion (Italy (on behalf of the EU), The Russian Federation, Benin (on behalf of the LDC Group), Turkey, Bangladesh, Haiti and Mexico). Speakers stressed the need for continued support and predictable ODA to LDCs, given the difficulties faced by most of them to graduate by 2020. Turkey announced its readiness to host the mid-term review conference on the implementation of the IPoA. The Russian Federation stressed the need for continued involvement of ECOSOC to strengthen support to LDCs in the trade and financial areas. Bangladesh supported the holding of the high-level expert group on the technology bank for the LDCs which is to be established by the 70th session of the GA. Support was also expressed to OHRLLS and the increased means put at its disposal. Action on a draft resolution was deferred to a later stage.

### **Non-governmental organizations**

The Council adopted the draft decisions contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its May session, all by consensus. By doing so, the Council granted consultative status to 158 NGOs, closed the consideration of the request for consultative status made by 29 NGOs who had failed to respond to queries by the Committee, and decided not to grant consultative status to one NGO.

In addition, the Council took note of the quadrennial reports ('quads') of 129 NGOs. It suspended, for a period of one year, the consultative status of 106 NGOs with outstanding quads, withdrew the status of 129 NGOs with continued outstanding quads, and reinstated the status of 21 NGOs that had submitted their outstanding quads.

### **Crime prevention, criminal justice and narcotic drugs**

Following-up on requests contained in resolutions emanating from the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to organize an high level event on drugs, the Council held a High-Level Panel Discussion entitled "Sustainable Development and the World Drug Problem: Challenges and Opportunities". The Panel focused on the impact of the drug problem on development (including food security and lack of sustainable livelihoods, as well as citizen security, violence and corruption) and on the obstacles it creates for member states to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The panel was also meant to contribute to the substantive preparations for the General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, to be held in 2016.

The Council considered the reports of the two Vienna based Commissions, which were introduced by Ambassador Khaled Shamaa, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations in Vienna and Chair of the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and by Ambassador Vladimir Galuska, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in Vienna and Chair of the 23rd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

The Council adopted by consensus the resolutions recommended for its adoption by these bodies. Among them, a resolution entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”, launches the preparatory process for the UNGASS and decides that CND will lead that process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner. This resolution, which is now submitted by the Council to the General Assembly for adoption at its 69th session, was subject to intensive consultations in Vienna, as some Latin American countries advocated for a process that would be led in New York, outside of the UNODC ambit. During the general discussion at the Council, the delegate of Mexico stated that the President of the General Assembly should be involved in the preparatory work of the UNGASS in order to promote concerted international action around this process.

Among the resolutions emanating from the CCPCJ, one sets out the organizational arrangements for the Thirteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha (Qatar) in 2015. A resolution connects the rule of law to crime prevention and criminal justice policies and stresses their relevance to the post 2015 development agenda. Resolutions also contain normative instruments on the elimination of violence against children and on responses to trafficking in cultural properties. These resolutions are recommended by the Council to the General Assembly (Third Committee) for adoption.

#### **Coordination, programme and other questions**

The Council had before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2013, which was introduced by Ms. Simona Petrova, Director of the CEB Secretariat. In an ensuing discussion, the representative of Cuba praised the work of CEB to promote coordination and coherence and to simplify institutional practices, and stressed that actions undertaken by the Board had to be aligned with the priorities of Member States.

The following day, Mr. Ramadhan Mwinyi, Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), presented the report of the 54th session of the Committee, which contained the outline of the strategic framework for the period 2016-2017. During the general discussion, the representative of Cuba requested that the review of CPC and CEB reports should be done at the same time in future.

#### **Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

The Council had before it the report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was introduced by Ambassador Xavier Lasso-Mendoza, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN and Chair of the Special Committee on Decolonization. The report, based on the information supplied by specialized agencies and other organizations, examined the progress made in improving social and economic development of Non-Self-Governing Territories, including through the support provided by the UN system.

It encouraged further support and integration of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the post-2015 development agenda and requested that the UN agencies that did not provide information for the report, such as UNDP, reported on their progress in this area. The Council adopted a draft resolution under this item, introduced by Mr. Lasso-Mendoza, by a vote of 26 in favour and 21 abstentions. The representative of the United States explained the US abstention by the fact that it was up to the administering power to determine participation in activities carried out by UN organizations in Non-Self-Governing territories, and, in that sense, the resolution in its current formulation infringed upon the US Constitution which laid that responsibility to the Federal Government.

#### **Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan**

The consideration of the item began with the introduction of the report of the Secretary-General by Mr. Tarik Alami, Director of Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues Division at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The report presented the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, marked by unequal access to housing, land and sewage systems, food and water insecurity, restricted mobility, mistreatment of prisoners, and institutionalized segregation.

During the general discussion, the Permanent Observer of Palestine and the Permanent Representative of Brazil supported the content of the report noting the devastating effect of the ongoing conflict, including the recent escalation of the situation, on the lives and livelihoods of average Palestinians and the Palestinian economy. They called for humanitarian aid and broader economic and political support for the Palestinian people. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic spoke on the situation of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, noting poor living conditions, economic downturn, environmental damage, and destruction of historical monuments.



A draft resolution was submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia (on behalf of G77) who indicated that this year's text was revised to reflect new realities on the ground, especially the deterioration of economic and social conditions, calling upon Israel to reinstate property and other rights to the populations residing in occupied territories.

The representative of Italy, speaking on behalf of the EU, said that he would vote in favour of the text but expressed discomfort with some terms used in the draft resolution, such as "Palestinian Government", that implied recognition of a State of Palestine. The representative of the United States expressed disappointment over the "one-sidedness" of the resolution and the failure to have a constructive dialogue on the issue. The draft resolution was adopted by 44 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

After the vote, the representative of Israel made a general statement in which she expressed concern as to the unbalanced presentation of the Israeli-Palestinian relations in the report presented by ESCWA, noting in particular the lack of discussion on the role of Hamas in the deterioration of the living conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine responded by reiterating the extent of economic damages and human loss inflicted upon Palestinians by Israel.

### Science and technology for development

The Council had before it the report of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The first report, presented by Mr. Andrew Reynolds, Chair of the 17th session of CSTD, included two resolutions for adoption by the Council entitled "Science, technology, and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda" and "Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development."

These resolutions which were adopted by the Council, emphasized inclusiveness and affordability in information and communication technology to ensure that innovations are broadly shared and used to promote progress in other development spheres, such as education, health, agriculture and food production, energy and environment.

The report of the Secretary-General, presented by Ms. Anne Miroux, Director of the Division of Technology and Logistics at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), provided a broad overview of current trends in this area and detailed the implementation of the WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels. The UNCTAD report emphasized the growing demand for ICTs across all regions though warned of the unequal access to mobile and internet networks and devices as vast segments of the world population cannot afford costs

associated with the use of these technologies and are thus unable to benefit from ICT advancements.

### Public administration and development

The Council had before it the report of the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), which was presented by Ms. Margaret Saner, Independent Senior Adviser on Governance, Leadership, Change and Institution Building (UK) and the Chairperson of CEPA, who spoke via video link from London.

The report of the Committee stresses that the main goal of CEPA – to transform public administration for sustainable development – can be achieved by (1) strengthening national and local administrative strategic capacity through knowledge exchanges between governments, civil society actors, international organizations, and academics; (2) promoting leadership, innovation and risk management through development of robust analytical and risk management tools; and (3) encouraging professionalism, accountability, and cooperation in public service through strategic alliances with the UN and non-UN bodies.

The draft resolution contained in the report of the Committee was under consideration by the Council at informal consultations and would be taken up at a later date.

### Population and development

Ambassador Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium and Chair of the Commission on Population and Development, presented the report of the 47th session of the Commission, whose main theme was "Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)". Ambassador Frankinet referred to the improved working methods of CPD, in line with the strengthening of the ECOSOC machinery, and the unprecedented number of countries and NGOs who took part in its last session.

The resolution contained in the report of the Commission for adoption by the Council stresses the connection between the full implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD and global efforts to eradicate poverty, and calls for measures to fill existing gaps in various sectors of ICPD. The text also welcomes the special session to be held during the 69th session of the General Assembly to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support to it. Through this resolution, the Council transmits the report of the Commission to the special session. The Council adopted this resolution.

## Cartography

The Council approved the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-eighth session. The report primarily concerned the standardization of geographical names and the assistance provided to Member States by the Group of Experts. During the general discussion, the representative of Australia voiced support for holding the forthcoming session of the Group of Experts in Bangkok as it will help bring experts from South-Eastern Asian countries.

## United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Council heard an oral report by Mr. Udo Janz, Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The representative of the United States praised the work of the UNHCR and recommended further cooperation between the UN, non-UN bodies and Member States as well as partnerships with NGOs for effective action and greater transparency on refugee issues.

The representative of Uruguay introduced a draft decision on the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the UNHCR to include Armenia, Chad, Georgia and Uruguay. The draft decision was adopted without a vote.

## Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Council heard a presentation by Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough, Chair of the 13th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, on the Forum's report contained in document E/2014/43. Among the decisions adopted by the Council, one relates to the hosting of an international expert group meeting on the theme "Dialogue on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", upon which the representative of the Russian Federation stated that it could not be viewed as support by member States to the subject.

Another decision foresees that the Forum will continue to discuss the possibility to change its name to "Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". One draft decision includes an extra day meeting of the Forum, without budgetary implications.

Answering to a question by the United States, Dr. Sambo Dorough explained that the additional one day meeting would be an opportunity to share views with the intent of improving the Forum's working methods. She added that the Forum is in dialogue with the Government of New Zealand regarding funding an inter-sessional meeting in November. The draft decisions were adopted without a vote.

For more information:

[ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meetings-CMM](#)

## Parliamentarians bringing the future of development cooperation to post-2015



*Parliamentarians emphasized their essential role in development cooperation at the Fourth Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), held on 10 – 11 July at the UN*

*headquarters in New York, as part of the High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).*

The diversity of actors involved in international development cooperation continues to grow. So do demands for a renewed global partnership for development that is truly inclusive and makes it easier for all stakeholders to engage. The critical role of parliaments, in particular, was repeatedly stressed at the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum, which brought together more than 200 senior level experts and practitioners.

"We cannot continue business as usual. Development cooperation is no longer the role of the government alone," said the Member of Parliament Geoffrey Ekanya, who is also Shadow Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda. "There are several actors that must come into play and national parliaments are institutionally empowered to play a role."

## Parliaments play a critical role in development cooperation

Development cooperation is effective when it leads to tangible and sustainable development results. For this, effective monitoring and accountability are essential. The DCF has been a forerunner in advancing the concept and practice of "mutual accountability" between the providers and recipients of international development cooperation to encourage mutual learning, trust and respect, which ultimately leads to fulfilling development commitments. As an institution conferred to pass legislation and oversee activities pertaining to development cooperation, parliaments can make a unique role to play in mutual accountability for development cooperation. Members of Parliament, being representatives of the electorate, have particularly high interest in ensuring that development projects are carried out for the well-being of their citizens.

More than 10 parliamentarians from developing and developed countries participated in the 2014 DCF, where they shared their common view on the central role of parliaments in development

cooperation. “Governments should be a coordinator and a catalyst. When talking about accountability and monitoring, it is the job of parliamentarians in the North and the South,” said Ms. Helen Laverdiere, Member of Parliament from Canada, who participated at the Forum.

Despite heightened awareness of the critical role of parliamentarians in development cooperation, they still play a relatively minimal role in practice in a number of countries, according to the Third UNDCF Global Accountability Survey. Results showed that in 3 out of 4 cases, national aid policies were not reviewed at all by parliaments and only every third country required submission of progress reports of implementing development projects to parliament. Independent analytical inputs from parliamentarians are both rare and rarely used in national coordination forums on mutual accountability. These factors, combined with limited capacity development support for Members of Parliament have severely impeded their oversight role.

### Support for capacity development is needed

In order to support parliamentarians in facilitating development cooperation and enhancing mutual accountability, efforts need to be made to strengthen their capacity effectively to perform their legislative and oversight role. Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General, highlighted the importance of parliaments and remarked that “a major effort by donor representatives at country level is needed to support such capacity development of parliaments.”

An enabling environment and space for parliaments and other stakeholders, including members of civil society, is central to strengthen the accountability function of parliaments. Secretary-General of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mr. Martin Chungong, also echoed this sentiment by reminding all stakeholders at the Forum that “it is important to look at responsibilities of parliaments but also at the capacities that parliaments need to fulfil their given responsibilities.”

The 2014 high-level meeting laid out an ambitious agenda for further work by DCF, especially review of a renewed global partnership for development, including the successor arrangement to MDG8; review of national mutual accountability and transparency in development cooperation; and focusing on policy coherence between aid and non-aid policies for development. It also broke new ground in launching an initiative to better document South-South cooperation efforts as a fresh opportunity for mutual learning and better development results.

For more information:

[Development Cooperation Forum](#)

[Accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era](#)

[Third Global Accountability Survey on Mutual Accountability](#)

## The 2014 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review



*The ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) was held during 8-9 July during the high-level segment of ECOSOC under the theme: “Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium*

*Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”.*

### Ministerial declaration

The Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) convened under the auspices of ECOSOC, was adopted on 9 July and was the main outcome. The Declaration addresses the themes of both the AMR and HLPF, including the need to accelerate progress towards the MDGs; the importance to address the unfinished agenda in the transition towards the SDGs and a more universal and ambitious post-2015 development agenda; the need for a strong global partnership for development; the link between poverty and sustainable development, with poverty eradication as a pre-condition for sustainable development; and acknowledges the work of ECOSOC and the HLPF, including their role in supporting a future post-2015 development agenda. The Declaration also underscored the importance of building on the AMR National Voluntary Presentations for review and monitoring progress of the post-2015 development agenda. The Declaration was significant for establishing a single outcome for both ECOSOC and the HLPF.

### National voluntary presentations and ministerial panel on integration

The National Voluntary Presentation (NVPs) at the AMR included ten volunteers – Bolivia, Gambia, Georgia, Kuwait, Mexico, Qatar, Sudan, Thailand, United Kingdom, and the State of Palestine. The NVP presenters shared their countries’ development experiences, including challenges in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as ideas on ways to link the MDG framework with the post-2015 development agenda.

The first Ministerial Panel on Integration was convened during the 2014 AMR on the theme “Integrating employment-centric sustainable development into the post-2015 development agenda”. The Panel brought together high-level policymakers from developed and developing countries and different regions



and areas of expertise. Panelists identified challenges and opportunities in integrating macroeconomic, social and environmental policies to promote sustainable development and shared experiences and lessons learned and stressed the centrality of employment in the post-2015 development agenda. An important outcome of the Panel was to link the 2014 high-level segment with the 2015 ECOSOC Integration Segment, which will have as its theme “*Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all*”.

### General Debate

Sixty-one Member States and five international organizations intervened in the general debate. Statements were crafted around key issues highlighted in the Secretary-General’s AMR report, addressing national ownership, inclusive development, good governance, institutions, means of implementation, ODA, partnerships, and the role of the United Nations. References were also made to the need for a strong monitoring and accountability mechanism to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

For more information:

[2014 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review](#)

## UN Millennium Goals ‘scorecard’ spotlights successes, gaps and path towards ‘the future we want’



*With the 2015 deadline for achieving the landmark Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) less than 550 days away, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today launched the final push towards the United Nations targets – many of which have been met or are*

*within reach – and urged a strong, ambitious successor blueprint “that will leave no one behind.”*

Presenting to Member States a major new report on 7 July, which he called the most up-to-date “global scorecard” on efforts to achieve the eight mostly anti-poverty Goals agreed by world leaders at a UN summit in 2000, Mr. Ban told the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that the world is “at a historic juncture, with several milestones before us.”

According to The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014, said the UN chief, the world has already reached targets on

reducing poverty, increasing access to improved drinking water sources, improving the lives of slum dwellers and achieving gender parity in primary school.

Citing gains made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis and access to HIV treatment, Mr. Ban underscored that the report makes clear “the MDGs have helped unite, inspire and transform...and the combined action of Governments, the international community civil society and the private sector can make a difference.”

However, some MDG targets related to largely preventable problems, such as reducing child and maternal mortality and increasing access to sanitation, are “slipping away,” according to the report.

“We know that achievements have been uneven between goals, among and within regions and countries, and between population groups. For the most marginalized and vulnerable in society, social exclusion and discrimination are among the greatest obstacles to progress,” said Mr. Ban.

He said that unless these imbalances are addressed through bolder and more focused interventions, some targets will not be met, including in key areas such as childbirth, maternal mortality, universal education, and environmental sustainability.

“Our efforts to achieve the MDGs are critical to building a solid foundation for development beyond 2015. At the same time, we must aim for a strong successor framework to attend to unfinished business and address areas not covered by the eight MDGs,” said the UN chief

Indeed, the world has changed dramatically since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, he noted. Development, peace, security and the rule of law are more deeply connected than ever before. Eradicating extreme poverty is even more clearly an imperative to building stable societies.

“Tackling growing inequality, in rich and poor countries alike, has become a defining challenge of our times,” said Mr. Ban, declaring: “Our post-2015 objective must be to leave no one behind.”

To that end, he said that wise management of the environment has also become increasingly critical to sustainable economic and social development. “In particular, we must urgently act to limit global temperature rise and strengthen resilience to climate impacts. We all share the responsibility of promoting equitable sustainable development. We must act together and intensify our efforts.”

But while the challenges are daunting, the UN chief emphasized that the international community has more tools at its disposal

than at the turn of the Millennium – the expanding reach of technology, the deepening of partnerships, and a growing understanding of how to achieve results.

“We have an opportunity to apply new approaches to accelerate progress and pave the way for a more ambitious, inclusive and universal development framework,” he said, informing delegations that by the end of this year, he will produce a synthesis report to support Member States in their negotiations leading up to a summit in September 2015.

That report, said the Secretary-general, will outline a broad vision for a post-2015 development agenda. It will draw on the deliberations and the work of the General Assembly and ECOSOC, and its scope and ambition will be influenced by the outcomes produced by the Open Working Group and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance.

At the intergovernmental level, the new High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development built around the GA, and a strengthened ECOSOC, is in place. It will benefit from the work of ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum, which will address some of the critical issues on the future of development cooperation.

“This Forum can give impetus to agenda-setting throughout the UN system. The world counts on this Forum and our new architecture to provide guidance, leadership and action for the implementation of the new agenda,” said Mr. Ban, urging Member States to work together to “pave the way to the future we want – a life of dignity for all.”

ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik said: “We are approaching the creation of a new, inclusive and people-centered post-2015 development agenda. This agenda will aim to free mankind from poverty and hunger, and attain sustainable development. The new agenda will build on the [MDGs], complete their unfinished business and respond to new challenges. It will be a universal agenda that is critical for the future of humanity.”

Approaching the design of this new agenda, Member States also must consider how to revamp the approach to development, he said. In this period of transition, “we will need an integrated approach to sustainable development, underpinned by the strengthened framework that the Assembly, ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum under their respective auspices constitute.”

In his remarks, Assembly President John Ashe echoed that sentiment, saying the deliberations at this session of the Forum “will be critical to advancing our thinking on the post 2015 development agenda.” The Forum is expected to provide leadership and decisive action for a robust sustainable development agenda; it therefore must remain nimble in function and be able to

act quickly, particularly as the body will address new and emerging challenges.

Tasked with fostering implementation and ensuring oversight, the High-Level Political Forum will be a vital component of any post 2015 architecture. “However, effective and comprehensive implementation cannot be achieved unless the Forum has strong relationships and partnerships with UN system agencies, civil society and other international organizations. National structures must also be simultaneously strengthened for effective delivery and implementation,” he said.

Source: UN News Centre

For more information:

[MDG Momentum](#)

[Millennium Development Goals Report 2014](#)

## The High-level political forum demonstrates its potential



*The meeting of the 2014 High-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development was successfully held from 30 June to 9 July, at UN Headquarters in New York. It was the Forum's first substantive meeting under the auspices of*

*ECOSOC. More than 30 ministers and high level officials from governments, UN agencies and other international organizations, major groups, the private sector, parliamentarians, and other stakeholders attended the meeting.*

Though the discussions at the Forum highlighted how much work still needs to be done on a large number of issues, there was also optimism. “There is unprecedented awareness of the need to change our development models and a possibility to end extreme poverty by 2030,” said ECOSOC President Ambassador Martin Sajdik, who chaired this year’s Forum. He noted that there is “a broad acceptance that consumption and production must become more sustainable.” The dialogues had shown that many countries are already putting in place innovative policies to pursue sustainable development, and that the business sector and other stakeholders are committed to playing their part.

The Forum adopted both a Ministerial Declaration and its theme for 2015: “Strengthening integration, implementation and review – the HLPF after 2015”.

The meeting comprised a series of dialogues around four tracks of themes “From Rio+20 to post-2015”, “Regional dimensions and countries in special situations”, “Science-policy interface”, and “Shaping the forum beyond 2015”.

Participants highlighted the importance of implementation, integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, political will and concrete actions in achieving sustainable development. They also provided valuable thoughts on the sustainable development goals, the post-2015 development agenda, and the role of the HLPF in implementation, monitoring and review of the future goals and targets.

Science-policy interface was also acknowledged as an important factor, including by the presentation of the Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report. The report brings together existing sustainable development assessments and provides governments with an idea of how future Global Sustainable Development Reports could be shaped. Member States discussed the scope and methodology of the report based on the synthesis of their views reflected in the Secretary-General’s report. Most of them favoured a wide multistakeholder approach.

More than 30 side events sponsored by Governments, UN system and other international organizations, as well as major groups, were held during the HLPF.

“The meeting we are closing today has already demonstrated the great potential of the Forum. I believe that its outcome and discussions will contribute to the negotiations on the post 2015 development agenda that will start very soon,” said ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik at the closing session of this year’s Forum.

The Ministerial Declaration and further information can be found here: [High-level political forum \(HLPF\)](#)



## Trends and Analysis

### Ensuring protection and care for older persons



*The Fifth Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing will be held in New York from 30 July to 1 August.*

The Working Group was established by the General Assembly on 21 December 2010. In the context of the

Open Ended Working Group, Member States, Civil Society Representatives and experts consider the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons, identify possible gaps and review how best to address them, including by considering the feasibility of further instruments and measures.

The upcoming Fifth Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing includes four panel discussions which pay attention to the Human Rights and Care of Older Persons; Violence and Abuse against Older Persons (with a focus on older women and financial abuse); the Planning for End of Life Care: Legal and Financial issues; as well as Recent Developments and how to strengthen the rights of older persons through enhanced implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Furthermore, the newly Human Rights Council appointed Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Older persons, Ms. Rosita Kornfeld-Matte will address the working group for the first time, and the Special Advisor of the Secretary General on Post-2015 Development will address the Working Group on the theme “Older Persons and the Post-2015 Agenda”. A number of side events are organized in cooperation with concerned stakeholders.

The event will be broadcast live via [UN Web TV](#), providing access to the speeches, debates and discussions during the session. Updates will also be shared via Twitter from [@UN\\_Ageing](#) using [#OEWG5](#).

For more information: [Open-ended Working Group on Ageing](#)

### Using geospatial information to address key global challenges



*UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing the Fourth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), to be held in New York on 6-8 August.*

As a formal inter-governmental mechanism, UN-GGIM is playing a leading role in setting the agenda and direction for the development of global geospatial information and in promoting its use to address key global challenges.

The purpose of the session is to provide a forum to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders for the provision of authoritative, reliable and maintained geospatial information in support of evidence-based decision making and sustainable development.

This session of the UN-GGIM will be held in conjunction with the Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on 4-5 August. Convened in accordance with the Statistical Commission decision 44/101 and UN-GGIM decision 3/107, the Global Forum will bring together senior leaders from both statistical and geospatial communities to discuss the strategic vision and goals for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

For more information: [UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management \(UN-GGIM\)](#)

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## The impact of e-government in the future



*Governments across the globe are undertaking a process of transformative change. E-Government is becoming a holistic process to transform government towards sustainable development. This transformative change entail not only the design*

*and implementation of innovative practices, but more fundamentally a transformation of government's roles, functions, institutional frameworks and processes.*

In his masterly article “Trend is not Destiny”, the French scientist Rene Dubos (1901- 1982) warned us about the importance of shaping technology to serve human needs and not the other way round. In other words, human beings should not become blind consumers of the latest technological fad or buzz words. Indeed, trend is not destiny, particularly when it comes to the use of technology to improve public service delivery worldwide.

Improving public service delivery has significant social, economic and environmental implications for all 193 countries worldwide. For instance, the U.N. e-Government Survey 2014 shows that, at the regional level, Europe continued to lead e-Government worldwide, followed by the Americas, Asia, Oceania and Africa. According to Eurostat, Europe spent in 2013 an average of 49.1 % of national GDPs in public service delivery. The importance of an activity demanding investments of approximately half of all European countries' GDPs is self-evident. In addition, the Survey shows that e-Government can contribute towards transparency, efficiency, participation, while making service delivery more effective thus enhancing trust in Government.

Nevertheless, one of the most important trends is that Governments across the globe are undertaking a process of transformative change. E-Government is becoming a holistic process to transform government towards sustainable development. This transformative change entail not only the design and implementation of innovative practices, but more fundamentally a transformation of government's roles, functions, institutional frameworks and processes.

In addition, the U.N. e-Government Survey 2014 shows that between 2012 and 2014, the number of countries offering mobile apps and mobile portals doubled to nearly 50 countries. Today, 118 countries use some form of social media. In terms of transparency, 46 countries have dedicated portals for Open Government Data, while 130 countries already partially publish government expenditures online. In terms of e-Consultation, 49% of countries

provide a facility for obtaining feedback from citizens regarding the improvement of service delivery, while 75 countries place their e-Participation policy online. In 2014, all countries have an online presence for the first time in History, while 73 countries offer a “One-Stop-Shop” portal. More than half of the United Nations Member States are providing links to e-procurement platforms or announcements for bidding processes on their national portals. On the other hand, an estimated 1.1 billion households worldwide are still not connected to the Internet.

Effective regional cooperation will help support exchange programs and advance e-government development. For example: European Union, African Union's Programme for Infrastructure Development, and the Centre for Innovation on e-Government Development in partnership with the UN in Colombia, among other examples.

### Trends: Not Just DATA, but DEEDS

The challenge of sustainability is to balance social justice, economic output and environmental preservation. E-Government can become a tool to enhance sustainability prospects by promoting social inclusion, optimizing investments and expenditures and offering options to plan and monitor environmental threats. The world in 2025 will not be very different from the world today, but as social contrasts increase in some regions, it would be a big mistake to place all our eggs in specific high-tech baskets. E-Government is not only about technology and data, but about deeds. In the future, there will be no difference between e-Government and Government, as technology is gradually mainstreamed. As mentioned by Clay Sharky, “solutions only become socially interesting after they are technologically boring”, i.e. when used by nearly everybody.

To translate e-Government into social success it will always be important to continue balancing education, technology and the way in which governments present themselves online. Today, the most advanced countries in e-Government development show good results in the following current trends and these are not likely to fade away.

- 1) Whole-of-Government – Governments presenting themselves in an integrated way
- 2) E-participation – Governments engaging citizens at three levels: information exchange, consultation and actual decision-making.
- 3) Multichannel Service Delivery – Governments using not only computers but also cell phones, mail, personal attention and telephones to serve citizens better.
- 4) Expansion of Use – Citizens actually using e-services in a demand-driven way and not just having Governments increasing the supply of information that citizens do not use.
- 5) Digital gap and Vulnerable Groups – attention to increasing access to technology and engagement of all groups, including visually impaired, illiterate, elderly, youth and others.
- 6) Open Government – not only placing raw data online, but also

having a comprehensive policy to open governments to citizens in an informative and participatory way, thus reducing corruption and increasing transparency.

### **Concrete Results – The Real Leap Towards the Future**

For e-Government to fully achieve its potential, it will be important, first of all, to have capacity on the part of the civil service to separate technology from the marketing of technology. Everybody likes to be considered “smart” and nobody likes to be considered stupid. Quite often governments acquire “smart” technologies that they do not need, hoping that data and high-tech would by themselves solve all their problems. In addition, many governments face the challenge of institutional coordination, when different institutions within the same Government engage in a technological race, each one going in a separate way. Cooperate with the private sector is extremely important, but in a coordinated way.

The most advanced Governments have made a political decision, at the highest possible level, that transversal institutional coordination and a commitment to a longer-term plan are fundamental steps. It is essential to establish longer-term goals that go beyond the duration of political mandates, so that the country benefits as a whole from the potential of e-Government. The most advanced countries have a Chief Information Officer (CIO), or equivalent, working closely with the Office of the President or Prime Minister. In addition, they are coordinating their national development strategies with their e-Government strategies, such as in most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Colombia, Uruguay, and most recently in Ecuador and others.

Concerning the way Government presents themselves online as a whole, Australia has a combined central portal, the United Kingdom has recently integrated its Directgov and Business Link portals into one. The Swedish business registration portal where three government agencies—the Swedish Companies Registration Office, the Swedish Tax Agency and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, have joined forces to enable entrepreneurs to logon and conduct services with all three agencies in one place. In Denmark the citizen portal offers a personalized account of information and services through a single sign-on. New Zealand and Singapore are moving ahead with an “all-of-government” approach that includes cloud computing. In the Philippines, gender and development mainstreaming efforts led to the creation of the Davao Medical Centre, which, in turn, set up the Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU)—a one-stop family crisis intervention centre, which provides legal, psychiatric and medical services to its patients. The South Korea’s Integrated Financial Management Information System established by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance is another example of whole-of-government approach. In summary, the future of e-Government is not being defined by imaginative strokes of science fiction but by concrete deeds being performed everyday by the most developed governments.

In fact, there is a myth that public administration improves because of development. After 30 years working with development, I must contend that the opposite is true: without a serious reform to improve its public service, a country will not develop.

Governments that ignore the potential for change within their own administrations are condemned to perpetuate mistakes of the past. In this regard, e-Government – when properly used – can become the backbone of catalytic public reform towards a better future in all countries.

For more information:

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



## Capacity development

### Strengthening capacities to produce gender statistics



*UN DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), is organizing a workshop on Gender Statistics for countries from the Pacific region taking place in Nadi, Fiji, from 4 to 6 August.*

This is one of a series of workshops conducted by the Statistics Division, under the Global Gender Statistics Programme, to provide training and assistance to strengthen the capacity of countries to produce and disseminate gender statistics and to use gender statistics for policymaking.

These workshops focus primarily on Integrating a Gender Perspective into Statistics, Time Use Statistics and Statistics on Violence against Women. They aim to promote and train national statisticians on agreed international standards, share best practices and ensure collaboration and networking among gender statisticians and other relevant stakeholders, for the production, dissemination and communication of gender statistics that are policy relevant, internationally comparable and technically sound.

The workshop for the Pacific region will assist national statisticians with translating international guidelines into practice at the national level, taking into account the specific contexts of countries in the region.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

## Validating toolkit on disability for Africa



*The Technical Cooperation Unit (TCU) of UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) will organize a workshop for the validation of the Toolkit on Disability for Africa, taking place in Addis Ababa on 5 -7*

*August.*

The overall objective of the workshop is to validate the Toolkit on Disability for Africa, prepared as a training tool to enhance the awareness of government officials and other stakeholders in African countries about disability issues, and to increase their capacities to formulate, monitor and evaluate national policies and action plans in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

Government officials involved in formulating and implementing national disabilities policies and programmes and representatives of civil society organizations, will be invited from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia. Experts from ECA, OHCHR and AU will also participate.

The main outcome of the workshop will be a Toolkit on Disability for Africa verified, enriched and completed by the participants' experiences, and therefore validated for its employment in training workshops promoted by other future projects in Africa.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development](#)  
[United Nations ENABLE](#)

# Publications and Websites

## Technical reports

### 2014 revision of the World Urbanization Prospects



The 2014 revision of the World Urbanization Prospects by UN DESA's Population Division notes that the largest urban growth will take place in India, China and Nigeria. These three countries will account for 37 per cent of the projected growth of the world's urban population between 2014 and 2050. By 2050, India is projected to add 404 million urban dwellers, China 292 million and Nigeria 212 million.

The urban population of the world has grown rapidly from 746 million in 1950 to 3.9 billion in 2014. Asia, despite its lower level of urbanization, is home to 53 per cent of the world's urban population, followed by Europe with 14 per cent and Latin America and the Caribbean with 13 per cent.

The world's urban population is expected to surpass six billion by 2045. Much of the expected urban growth will take place in countries of the developing regions, particularly Africa. As a result, these countries will face numerous challenges in meeting the needs of their growing urban populations, including for housing, infrastructure, transportation, energy and employment, as well as for basic services such as education and health care.

"Managing urban areas has become one of the most important development challenges of the 21st century. Our success or failure in building sustainable cities will be a major factor in the success of the post-2015 UN development agenda," said John Wilmoth, Director of UN DESA's Population Division.

- [For more information](#)

### Global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era



The Committee for Development Policy has released its 2014 Policy Note on Global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era. In this Policy Note, the Committee analyses how intergovernmental cooperation could be strengthened to better manage the increasing interdependence among countries, reduce large inequalities among and within countries and contribute to the implementation of

the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, while preserving the necessary policy space for government action at the country level.

- [For more information](#)

### Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report



Launched on 1 July by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, the report provides governments with an idea of how future Global Sustainable Development Reports can be shaped. The findings of this new report show that sustainable development pathways can lead toward a world where by the latter half of the 21st century all regions will be developed, poverty will be eradicated and the

demand on natural sources and sinks will not exceed their regeneration capacity.

- [For more information](#)

### Probabilistic Population Projections (PPP)

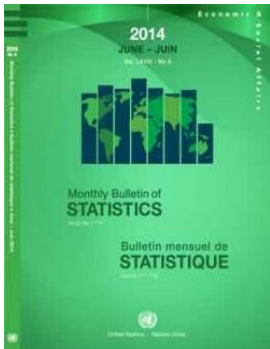
UN DESA's Population Division just released a new revision of Probabilistic Population Projections (PPP). These projections are based on the historical estimates of population by age and sex, fertility and mortality trends between 1950 and 2010 from the 2012 Revision of the World Population Prospects, and probabilistic projections of total fertility and life expectancy at birth for all countries and areas of the world. This new set of projections provide total population for all countries and areas with 90,000 inhabitants or more in 2013 and, for the first time,

for 35 major geographic aggregates and 4 World Bank income groups. Population by broad age groups and for various age dependency ratios are also provided for all these aggregates and countries or areas. These results are complementary to the official 2012 Revision of the World Population Prospects.

- [For more information](#)

## 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.

Vol. LXVIII – No. 6, June 2014

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly and bimonthly tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex; Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices, and value; Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value; and Selected series of world statistics.

- [For more information](#)

## Outreach material

### Youth Flash Newsletter

Published by UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth, the July issue puts the spotlight on the International Youth Day 2014 Campaign. The

newsletter is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

### DESA NGO News

Published by UN DESA's NGO Branch, the latest issue provides the most up-to-date information on news and upcoming events of interest to civil society at UN headquarters in New York, Geneva and elsewhere.

- [Read full issue](#)

### 22nd edition of UN Bimonthly Publications Review

Every two months, the review collates publications produced by UN agencies and programmes on issues related to water and sanitation. This edition brings together 32 UN publications from a range of water and sanitation related issues. All publications are available online as free downloadable PDFs.

- [Read full issue](#)

## Discussion papers

### Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 68

Published by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the July issue is now available online, putting the spotlight on the sluggish recovery of world trade, the rise of oil prices amid political instability in Iraq and the disappointing first quarter for developed economies.

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## Working papers

### Recipients and Contributors: Middle income countries and the future of development cooperation

The new role that middle-income countries (MICs) play in the global landscape obliges international community to review the configuration of the development cooperation system. On the one hand, MICs still face considerable structural deficits that affect their process of development; on the other, international

community needs MICs to participate more intensively in the international agenda. Development cooperation can support both purposes, although for that to happen, substantial changes are required in traditional approaches and procedures of current international aid. This paper analyses these subjects with the objective of helping decision-makers come to good decisions.

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### **A comparative study of the forecasting performance of three international organizations**

This article evaluates and compares the forecasting performance of three international organizations: the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The annual forecasts made by the United Nations in the period of 1981-2011 are found to be fairly robust, in terms of bias and efficiency. In comparison, the forecasting performance of the United Nations is found to be marginally better than the other two organizations during the period of 2000-2012. However, the forecasts of all these organizations missed the Great Recession of 2009 by a large margin.

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# Comings and Goings

## Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in July:*

Victoria Ceban, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Valentina Resta, Sr. Governance & Public Admin. Officer, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Wailan Wu, Programme Assistant, Statistics Division

Peng Guo, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

## Goings

*The following staff member retired in July:*

Almaz A. Woldekidane, Sr. Governance & Public Admin. Officer, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

# Calendar

## August

### **Fifth Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing**

30 July – 1 August, New York

### **Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing**

4-8 August, New York

### **Workshop on Gender Statistics for countries from the Pacific region**

4-6 August, Nadi, Fiji

### **Workshop for the validation of the Toolkit on Disability for Africa**

5-7 August, Addis Ababa

### **Fourth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)**

6-8 August, New York

### **International Day of the World's Indigenous People**

9 August

### **International Youth Day**

12 August

### **Major Groups and other Stakeholders Forum on partnerships for SIDS**

28-29 August, Apia, Samoa

**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.**