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Inclusion matters: access and empowerment for people of all abilities

“The new agenda is a promise by leaders to all people everywhere. It is an agenda for people,” declared Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he opened the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York on 25 September. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, this year’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December aims to mobilize support on critical issues relating to the inclusion and advancement of persons with disabilities in society and development.

Approved by 193 Member States, the new agenda includes 17 forward-looking sustainable development goals (SDGs). These new SDGs pay special attention to the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as those who live in poverty, those subject to discrimination and exclusion based on, among other factors, disability.

“Persons with disabilities” or “disability” are specifically mentioned 11 times in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Disability is referenced explicitly in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs.



Making cities inclusive and accessible for all

The World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) estimate that the one billion people living with disabilities worldwide face many barriers to inclusion in many key aspects of society.



As a result, people with disabilities do not enjoy access to society on an equal basis with others, which includes areas of transportation, employment, and education as well as social and political participation. The right to participate in public life is essential to create stable democracies, active citizenship and reduce inequalities in society.

“It is only by looking at the reality of persons with disabilities across all stages and experiences of life that we are able to fully understand the roots of exclusion and the role of accessible cities in correcting it,” said Daniela Bas, Director of UN DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) in her opening remarks at the Forum on Disability Inclusion and Accessible Urban Development held in Nairobi, Kenya on 28 October.

By ensuring disability-inclusion in policy and practices and proactively promoting accessibility in urban and rural development, enabling conditions and equal opportunities for people with disabilities can be created so that they could participate fully in society and development and enjoy their basic human rights.

Following the progress in disability-inclusive development with specific references to disability in the new agenda, this year’s theme for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is “Inclusion matters: access and empowerment for people of all abilities”. The sub –themes for the Day are: Making cities inclusive and accessible for all; Improving disability data and statistics; and Including persons with invisible disabilities in society and development.

Promoting a society accessible for all

This year, the international community is calling for the rightful place for persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries in society and development. After decades of collective efforts, such as through the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, and the convening of the 2013 General Assembly High-level Meeting on Disability and Development in 2015, many successful strides for a disability-inclusive 2030 development agenda have been taken.

During the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, earlier this year, a new and energized multi-stakeholder community advanced the “disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction” agenda with persons with disabilities as leaders and an essential resource in every step of the way for conclusion of the Sendai Framework.

In October, policy-makers, practitioners and experts convened a UN DESA/DSPD Forum to explore ways in which urban development can be more inclusive, accessible and sustainable for all, including persons with disabilities.

Building on these examples, the concerted efforts for disability-inclusive global development agenda should continue among all stakeholders in the work leading up to next year’s major events, the UN World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul and HABITAT III in Quito.

International Day highlights the SDGs and Disability



The opening of the International Day at UN Headquarters will include a message by the Secretary-General, statements from several Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations and from civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

Three expert panel discussions will take place to: 1) review current policies and practices toward the inclusion of persons with disabilities in urban contexts, identifying and addressing challenges that cities face in making urban development more accessible and inclusive; 2) draw attention to issues related to persons with invisible disabilities and share good practices

and lessons learned in integrating mental well-being and disability in development efforts; and 3) operationalize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with regard to indicators, data and statistics on disability.

Later in the day, the annual UN Enable Film Festival will showcase films selected to help raise awareness of disability issues, as well as to promote the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society and development. A photo exhibition, entitled “Images of Ability” will be on display to promote a better understanding about disability issues, and presenting persons with disabilities as full and equal participants in the societies in which they live.

For more information:

[International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2015](#)

Be Informed! Get Involved! Find out more about UN DESA's work for persons with disabilities:

Subscribe to the UN Enable Newsletter: <http://bit.ly/1wYUjmM>

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/unenable-fb> | <http://bit.ly/undesadspd-fb>

Twitter: @UN_Enable | @undesadspd

Website: www.un.org/disabilities

[Video: 70 years of development in 70 seconds: Disability](#)

Achieving the sustainable development goals through ICTs

Since 2005, peoples' access to the Internet at home has doubled, with 46% of households being able to connect to the web today. With this rapid growth, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have been recognized as critical drivers to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their positive impact on economic development has also been observed, where a 2% GDP increase can be seen for every 10% gain in broadband penetration in the developing world.



On 15-26 December, a more in-depth discussion on achieving the SDGs through ICTs will take place during a United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting in New York. This high-level meeting is convened to conduct an overall review of the

implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10).

Attended by high-level representatives from governments, civil society and the private sectors, this meeting will address potential ICT gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as address challenges, including harnessing ICTs for development and bridging the digital divide.

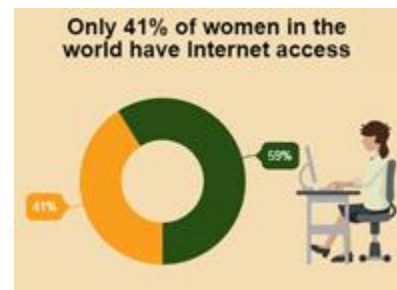
ICT for development

Increased ICT connectivity, innovation and access have played a critical role in enabling progress in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Therefore, a close alignment between WSIS+10 and the SDGs should be recognized, highlighting the ICT's cross-cutting contribution to the new goals.

"The rapid development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and growth in global interconnectivity can play an increasingly important role in promoting economic and social progress in many parts of the world," said Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UN General Assembly in his opening remarks during the WSIS+10 preparatory meeting earlier this year.

The upcoming two-day high-level meeting will provide an opportunity for extensive discussions on important issues in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, including various development issues that can be enhanced by the efficient use of ICTs.

Bridging the digital divide



Despite the last decades' achievement in ICT connectivity, there are many forms of digital divides still remaining – between and within countries, as well as among women and men. As of 2013, there are only 34% of people in

developing countries who have Internet access, versus 80% in developed countries. And among women around the world, only 34% have Internet access.

"While we marvel at the rapid growth in the ICT sector, we must come to firm grips with the widening digital divides," conveyed UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo in a message during the WSIS stocktaking session.

"In the modalities resolution of the General Assembly, this overall review process is expected to take stock of progress,

address potential ICT gaps and areas for continued focus, including bridging the digital divide, and harnessing ICT for development,” Mr. Wu continued and further addressed the importance of overcoming ICT challenges for implementation of the SDGs.

Photo: UNICEF/Estevé

For more information:

[UN DESA's WSIS+10 website](#)

[ITU WSIS knowledge platform](#)

[Video by ITU: The What, Why and When of WSIS](#)

New goals take aim at climate resilient future

“Any truly sustainable development must address the scourge of climate change,” UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo said just weeks before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) opened in Paris on 30 November. The relationship between climate change and development are clear, with climate change aggravating already existing threats to people and the planet. This is also why so many of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have targets linked to climate.



As COP21 kicked off, the impact of climate on various aspects of the development agenda – from economic growth to poverty and hunger eradication, and from health care to responsible consumption and production – becomes apparent.

The Paris Climate Conference, officially known as the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), convenes until 11 December to take decisions that further the implementation of the Convention and to combat climate change. The Conference also serves as the 11th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

For the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, the conference aims to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate. The goal is to keep global warming below 2°C.

Climate change on top of the global agenda

Climate change has risen to the top of the global agenda, with cities, countries, the private sector, civil society, faith leaders and individual citizens taking action.

“From every walk of life, and every corner of the globe, we see people taking action to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and build a climate resilient future,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. “Climate change carries no passport and knows no national borders.”

As climate change is a problem that does not respect borders, our ability to limit it to relatively safe levels will be diminished.



“Climate change is having an increasingly significant impact on the world around us. Weather-related disasters are becoming more frequent and intense, sea levels continue to rise, and the poorest and most vulnerable people often bear a disproportionate burden of the consequence,” emphasized Mr. Wu.

The 2030 Agenda addresses climate

Even though climate change is often portrayed as an environmental problem, it is also an economic and political issue. In the newly adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States express their commitment to protect the planet from degradation and to take urgent action on climate change.

This pledge is also visible in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with climate-related targets included in many of the new goals. Climate change not only makes existing problems much worse, it also hinders the improvement of global issues. The new agenda also identifies climate change as “one of the

greatest challenges of our time” and expresses concerns about how “its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.”

12 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Twelve of the seventeen SDGs underline the importance of our climate and the need to prevent further climate change.

There are SDGs which take specific aim at our climate: Climate action (SDG 13), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), life below water (SDG 14) and on land (SDG 15) as well as clean water and sanitation (SDG 6). But in addition to these, the connection to climate is also demonstrated in seven other SDGs: no poverty (SDG 1); zero hunger (SDG 2); good health and well-being (SDG 3); decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9); sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).



People living in poverty are often the ones mostly affected by climate change, as they have the least ability to respond to climate change, and often also live in more remote areas and depend directly on natural resources for their livelihood. The agenda

aims to “build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.”

Building resilient food production systems

In order to end hunger, achieve food security and sustainable agriculture, food production systems and resilient agricultural practices that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change practices are needed.

In one of its recent fact sheets on Climate change and health, the World Health Organization (WHO) points out that “climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.”

Climate Change affects and hinders economic growth, innovation and sustainable development of cities as well as of responsible consumption and production. Efforts to halt it can trigger multiple

benefits for society from health to food security and from job creation to sustainable development in different areas.

Climate change issues are of fundamental importance to all of us. An agreement at the COP21 in Paris will not be the end point, but it is a turning point in how all countries act together under an agreed and transparent framework.

For more information:

[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

[UN Climate Change Conference Paris 2015](#)

[UN Web TV: UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo highlights the needs for transformation to a low carbon economy ahead of Paris Climate Change Conference](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

A fighting chance: 70 years of combatting poverty

One in five people around the world currently live on less than 1.25 dollar per day, and many more find themselves on the verge of this extreme poverty threshold. The United Nations have made the eradication of extreme poverty their priority in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – making it goal number 1 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The fight against poverty has been central to the work of the UN since its foundation: the preamble of the UN charter reads one of the purposes for the establishment of the Organization being: “to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

Poverty, as defined by the UN, encompasses more than just a lack of monetary resources. Hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making are also recognized as indicators of relative poverty.

At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992, governments declared that “all States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world”.



The Rio Declaration laid the foundation for an even more targeted development framework, leading to the establishment of the first official decade on poverty in 1997, and eventually the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000.

The MDGs have become known as the most successful anti-poverty push in history. And with good reason: over the past 15 years, the goal of reducing poverty by half has not only been achieved, but even surpassed.

The number of people now living in extreme poverty has fallen from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015, while the working



middle class (those living on more than 4\$ a day) nearly tripled.

With the best practices that yielded these breakthrough results fresh in mind, world leaders set an even more ambitious goal this year, with the launch of the SDG's. The development framework that was adopted in September aims to completely eradicate extreme poverty by 2030.

While poverty and inequality have existed in every country on earth since the beginning of time, the success of the MDGs has shown the international community that with the right tools, global cooperation and a great dose of dedication, breakthrough results are within reach. Today, however, 14 percent of the world's population still lives in extreme poverty.

A number that has been deemed unacceptable by the UN and its Member States, and – with their combined efforts and the dedication of all stakeholders involved – will soon belong to the past.

For more information:

[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

[70 years of development in 70 seconds](#)

[70 years of development in 70 seconds: Eradicating poverty](#)

Survey results spark ideas for fresh newsletter design



As we are getting ready to welcome a new year, be sure to watch out for UN DESA's new and updated newsletter. Inspired by the appreciated help from about 1,000 survey participants, the department will soon be

able to reveal a new name and a modern new design to its 125,000 newsletter subscribers.

“The input that we received from the DESA News survey conducted earlier this year was very helpful,” said Guenther Gross, Chief of the Communication Section in UN DESA's Strategic Planning and Communications Service; the team that issues the online monthly newsletter.

“Our sincere thanks go out to all our readers who took the time to participate and to provide us with ideas and suggestions on how we can best enhance our newsletter,” he continued.

Valuable insights gained on readers’ needs

Through the survey, insights and feedback were received from members of civil society organizations, who constitute the main audience of the newsletter, followed by representatives from academia and UN DESA staff.

It turns out that the audience of DESA News is quite happy with the newsletter, and that they see it as a valuable source of information. However, they also shared some helpful comments on ways to enhance it, like using a more modern layout and putting people at the heart of content.

UN DESA’s online newsletter turned 20

“We are trying to take all these different suggestions into consideration as we update our newsletter,” explained Guenther Gross, also pointing out that the new design is very timely, as the online newsletter celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

As we say good bye to DESA News, the department is introducing the revamped newsletter with the January 2016 issue which will take effect at the very same time as the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) make their official entry on the global development arena.

“We look forward to keep our readers up to date on the new sustainable development goals as they are implemented all around the world,” said Mr. Gross. “We will also continue to provide an insider’s look into the work of the United Nations within the area of economic, social and sustainable development,” he concluded.

Future of Internet in focus of vibrant discussions at 10th Internet Governance Forum

The 2015 Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which took place from 10 to 13 November in João Pessoa, Brazil, gave some 4,000 online participants the opportunity to engage directly with some 2,400 on-site attendees from 116 developed and developing countries in vibrant discussions that addressed the challenges, as well as opportunities for the future of the internet in the context of sustainable development.



Underlining the crucial role that the internet can play in the successful implementation of the recently adopted [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the main theme of this year’s Forum was “Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development”.

Over 100 thematic workshops at the 10th IGF focused on a diverse range of issues under the following sub-themes: Cybersecurity and Trust; Internet Economy; Inclusiveness and Diversity; Openness; Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation; Internet and Human Rights; Critical Internet Resources and Emerging Issues.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in UN DESA Lenni Montiel opened the 10th IGF with remarks from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who set the stage for the meeting, stating that: “Less than two months ago, world leaders adopted the visionary 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our challenge now is to implement this blueprint for a better future. Information and communications technologies and the Internet can empower this global undertaking.”

High-level officials during the opening session thanked the Government of Brazil for being the only two-time host of the IGF, for its global leadership on multi-stakeholder internet governance and praised the overall organization of the meeting and warm hospitality of the local staff.

Addressing concerns related to increase in Internet use

Speakers throughout the opening session spoke to how Internet governance should evolve and how the international community could address concerns related to increased use of the Internet.

“We know that IGF makes feasible a collective and participative space for the reflection of potentialities, risks and critical resources related to the advances of the Internet and the world,” stated Ricardo Coutinho, Governor of the Brazilian state of Paraíba.

Many agreed that ambitious public and private partnerships are needed to make a real difference for disadvantaged populations. The IGF, with its wide diversity of views and multi-stakeholder nature, provides the unique space to develop a response to the challenges that the evolution of the Internet presents, a position echoed by several government representatives.



“Our view as said by our President Dilma Rousseff is that multistakeholder approach and multi-lateral approach are complementary concepts respecting each theme and roles and responsibilities of each of the players that are part of the Internet,” affirmed Mr. Andre Figueiredo, Minister of Communications of Brazil, and underscored the need to identify mechanisms to strengthen the multistakeholder environment so that all voices could be heard.

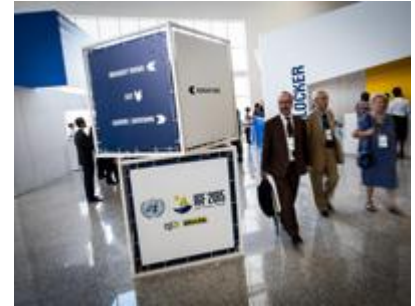
Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General for the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) noted that there is no single entity that can alone address all the challenges that the ICT sector is facing.

Voice of support for renewal of IGF mandate

Indeed, strong statements of support for the renewal of the IGF’s mandate, which will be decided during a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the overall World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) review in December 2015, were made by several of the speakers.

The IGF once again made effective use of its bottom-up and inclusive approach, gathering inputs from all stakeholders to identify obstacles, solutions and strategies to address pressing internet public policy issues. Insights from more than 40 national and regional IGF initiatives served as inputs into deliberations throughout the week.

An interactive session on the WSIS+10 consultations allowed participants to express their views on the future of the Internet within the framework of the ten-year review of the WSIS. This review of the WSIS will provide the opportunity to assess the outcomes of WSIS while reviewing progress made as well as the challenges ahead in the context of the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Ambassador Janis Mazeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia and Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, co-facilitators of the upcoming WSIS+10 meeting, confirmed that a report on the consultations held at the IGF would act as an input into the high-level review of the UN General Assembly set to take place on 15-16 December.

Synchronizing WSIS action lines to individual SDGs

It was recommended during the main session on Internet Economy and Sustainable Development that UN agencies such as UN DESA, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) can feed IGF discussions into work towards synchronizing WSIS Action lines to individual Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year’s “Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion” process produced a tangible and community driven, bottom-up IGF output. The compilation output document and the comprehensive collection of inputs and contributions to the process will be forwarded to UN agencies that will be encouraged to disseminate this information as widely as possible to make public officials aware of the work.

Adapting to fast-changing Internet policy environment

High-level speakers during the closing ceremony emphasized the importance of progress made by the IGF since its first meeting in Athens in 2006, noting how the IGF has effectively evolved to adapt to the fast-changing Internet policy environment, while retaining its unique multistakeholder nature.

The entire IGF 2015 was webcast and interactive online participation enriched sessions throughout the week, allowing many participants from the developing world to participate with those present in João Pessoa. Real-time transcription was also available to augment the overall participatory experience for

delegates in the meeting rooms and following around the globe. Thousands of interested individuals followed the proceedings on Twitter, using the hashtag #IGF2015.

The United Nations is deeply grateful for Brazil's global leadership, commitment and support of the IGF. Brazil is the only country that has twice hosted IGF. The success of the 2015 IGF was founded on the dedicated professional high standard support, warm hospitality and vibrant contribution and participation of all Brazilian stakeholders including the Government, technical community, NGOs, private sector and hundreds of young volunteers.

For more information: [Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#)

Trends and Analysis

Change the way you think about age! Centenarians answer the right questions...

Every second, two people celebrate their 60th birthday. According to estimates, persons aged 60 and above currently account for 901 million and are expected to grow to more than 1.4 billion by 2030. However, older people are often portrayed as frail, weak and an economic burden on society. The reality nevertheless, is very different... Recent findings show that older persons are an enormous asset to societies around the world.

In a very special interview, conducted at UN Headquarters in New York earlier this year by UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development's programme on Ageing, four exceptional women over the age of 100 addressed the common misconceptions about growing older by sharing their personal stories and why it's great to be a centenarian.

Longevity. A triumph of development and older persons

"Older people are very often invisible and marginalized", states Mr. Jack Kupferman, the President and Representative of the Gray Panthers (NYC Network) to the United Nations.

Ageism encompasses negative perceptions and preconceived notions and attitudes that often contribute to the marginalization and social exclusion of older people.

Older women, in particular, are primarily referred to as one of several marginalized groups for which limited, if any, information and disaggregated data are available. Women over the age of sixty and above are especially vulnerable, given the additional hurdle of discriminatory gender-based inequality that they often experience throughout the stages of their lives, including old age.

Celebrate ageing! Don't fear it

Madeline Scotto, who just celebrated her 101st birthday in October was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and is still tutoring students as a math bee coach. When asked if she ever thinks she would want to go back to "the good old days" she firmly responded "all my days are good! I never say I wish I were back at 20 or 30. A lot of things have disappeared, yes, but then other things have taken their place... You just have to keep up with the times."



One hundred year old Lillian Pollak, became a radical at sixteen, raised three kids, earned two graduate degrees at night and taught school for twenty-five years. She is still active, fighting for peace and equality in New York and around the world with the organization Raging Grannies. Lillian is also a published writer, currently working on her second book. When Lillian was asked if she thinks that wisdom comes automatically with old age she responded, "nothing comes automatically."

One hundred year old Ida Keeling is a track and field sprinter who started running in her late sixties. In 2011, at 95 years old, Keeling set the world record in her age group for running 60 meters at 29.86 seconds. Her motto in life is "Love yourself, eat for nutrition, not for taste, and do what you need to do, not what you want to do". Ida's plan for the future is to launch a website on how to be healthy from birth to 100 and beyond.

Maude Pettus, 101, spend ten years of her life in China as the Head Nurse at Hsiang-Ya (Xiangya) Hospital during the war between Japan and China. After returning to the United States, Maude maintained her love for China. She joined the Yale-China Centennial Delegation to China, and was honored with the Yale-China Award at the hallowed age of 98. At the age of 100 Maude climbed the Great Wall.

Looking forward...

On September 25 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Heads of State and governments committed themselves to building a sustainable world where no one, regardless of their age or gender, is left behind. In implementing the new 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, it is important to account for, and prepare for the demographic changes that are likely to unfold over the next 15 years and will have a direct bearing on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The steady increase in longevity worldwide demands that we rethink and combat the fundamental attitudes and negative persecutions that underpin age discrimination, so that older persons are given the opportunity to make a significant contribution to global development.

For more information: [UN Focal Point on Ageing in UN DESA](#)

ECOSOC President urges stronger cooperation to thwart tax evasion and avoidance



Citing an enormous loss of \$100 to \$240 billion dollars in uncollected global corporate income tax revenues each year, Oh Joon, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) today stressed the need to curb tax evasion

and avoidance and called for stronger international tax cooperation.

“Taxation represents a stable and predictable source of finance. Complemented by other sources, it is central to financing development needs and providing public goods and services,” said Mr. Oh in his [remarks](#) to the joint meeting of ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly’s [Second Committee](#), the world body’s main forum for discussions on economic and financial issues.

The joint meeting held under the theme ‘Domestic Resource Mobilization: Where to go after Addis?’ identified resources and challenges to finance sustainable development.

“The challenge is that many countries are hindered in their efforts to collect their taxes. Business models and value chains have become more international, integrated and dependent on intangibles. They have given rise to a number of loopholes in the area of taxation,” said Mr. Oh adding that tax evasion and avoidance pose a great threat to financing sustainable development.

Mr. Oh said that as per the recent Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates, between four to ten per cent of global corporate income tax revenues are lost annually, totalling to the amount of \$100 to \$240 billion.

He added that the loss is felt stronger in developing countries with greater needs for investment in development.

Mr. Oh stressed on stronger international cooperation to combat tax evasion and avoidance and added that the lack of information exchange between the countries is a huge opportunity for tax avoiders and evaders.

He added that discussions on the current landscape of international tax cooperation can help identify priorities for reform and make concrete suggestion for improved international cooperation.

Mr. Oh also recalled that in the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), UN Member States had decided to enhance the resources of the UN Tax Committee to strengthen its effectiveness and operational capacity.

Mr. Oh announced that the Tax Committee will meet twice a year and will also increase its engagement with ECOSOC through the Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

Lastly, Mr. Oh called for the continued engagement of all relevant stakeholders, as “this is the only way to ensure that the responses to international tax challenges can gain sufficient global ownership, and confirm the faith of honest taxpayers in their tax system and their government.”

Source: UN News Centre

For more information:

[UN General Assembly Second Committee \(Economic and financial\)](#)

[UN DESA’s Financing for Development Office](#)

Handbook on the management of population and housing censuses



UN DESA’s Statistics Division is conducting the Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Handbook on the Management of Population and Housing Censuses, to be held in New York on 14-17 December.

The main objective of the meeting is to review the draft of the revised Handbook on the Management of Population and Housing Censuses and to provide further guidance on its content and structure with a view to ensuring that it provides countries with a reference document on the management aspects of carrying out population and housing censuses in the 2020 round

of population and housing censuses, as mandated by the ECOSOC resolution on the same topic.

The revised Handbook is expected to be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission for adoption.

For more information: [Statistics Division calendar of events](#)

Capacity development

Vital statistics system for Caribbean countries



UN DESA's Statistics Division is conducting the United Nations Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, for Caribbean Countries, to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 1 to 4

December.

This is the first opportunity for Caribbean national statistical authorities to learn about the latest version of these major methodological guidelines and standards, issued last year.

In addition, the workshop will bring together civil registrars and statisticians, thus offering an opportunity for establishing a much closer cooperation at the national level. The workshop is conducted in collaboration with OAS, CARRICOM and Regional ECLAC Office.

The previous workshop on the same topic was conducted in 2005, thus providing an opportunity to assess the progress made in improving civil registration and vital statistics along the line of international standards in the ten year period for the fifteen participating Caribbean countries.

For more information: [Statistics Division calendar of events](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

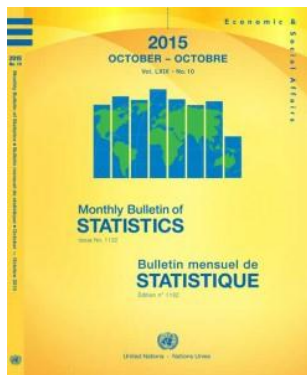
Launch of the WESP 2016 Global Economic Outlook

The first chapter of the WESP 2016 will be launched on 10 December in New York. A joint product of UN DESA, UNCTAD and the five United Nations regional commissions, this publication 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. The launch on 10 December will be broadcast live via [UN Web TV](#).

- [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

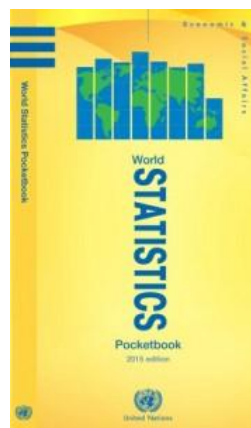
merchandise trade and finance.

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In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes bimonthly and quarterly tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Civil aviation traffic: passenger-km and cargo net ton-km; Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars.

- [For more information](#)

World Statistics Pocketbook 2015



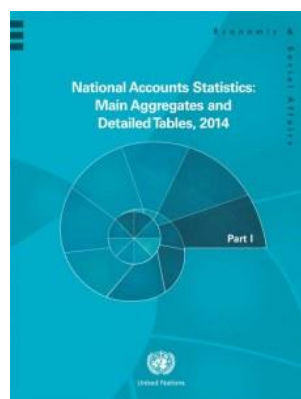
The Pocketbook is an annual compilation of key statistical indicators prepared by UN DESA's Statistics Division. Over 50 indicators have been collected from more than 20 international statistical sources and are presented in one-page profiles for 224 countries or areas of the world.

This issue covers various years from 2005 to 2015. For the economic indicators, in general, three years – 2005, 2010 and 2013 – are shown; for the indicators in the social and

environmental categories, data for one year are presented. The topics covered include: agriculture, balance of payments, education, energy, environment, food, gender, health, industrial production, information and communication, international finance, international tourism, international trade, labour, migration, national accounts, population and prices.

- [For more information](#)

National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 2014 (Parts 1-5)



The publication contains detailed official national accounts data for over 200 countries or areas of the World for the years 2002 to 2014. It is a valuable source of information on the state and structure of economies worldwide. The data for each country or area are presented in separate chapters with uniform table headings and classifications as recommended in

the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA). Each country chapter also contains a write-up on the methodology and data sources which are used to compile the national accounts. A summary of the SNA conceptual framework, classifications, definitions, is also included in the publication.

The publication contains statistics on gross domestic product by expenditure at current and constant prices and the relations

among product, income, saving and net lending; value added by kind of activity at current and constant prices, and output, gross value added and fixed assets by industry; classification of consumption expenditure of general government, households, and non-profit institutions serving households according to purpose; production account through the financial account for the institutional sectors; and cross classification of gross value added by industry and institutional sector.

To download the PDF version:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/pubsDB.asp?pType=3>

To download time-series data:

<http://data.un.org/Explorer.aspx?d=SNA>

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 84

Prepared by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the November issue is available online with the following summary:

- The United States of America avoids a fiscal stand-off
- Emerging economies brace for net capital outflows for the first time in many years
- Third quarter growth in China beats expectations

- [To download](#)

Outreach material

SD in Action Newsletter – November 2015

Published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, the November edition puts a spotlight on different events and projects including Workshops on integrating Agenda 2030 into national development plans, the UN High-level Water and Sanitation Days, and a Summary of 'Partnerships for SDGs' event. The newsletter aims to feature the work carried out by Member States, United Nations system, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

- [Read full issue](#)

DESA NGO News

Published by UN DESA's NGO Branch, the latest issue is available online providing 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. Readers will learn about the informal consultations with NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC on the agenda and work of the Second Committee organized by the NGO Branch of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) of UN DESA, as well as the upcoming General Assembly High-level Meeting to review the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) on 15-16 December.

- [Read full issue](#)

Comings and Goings

Goings

Ivan Koulov, Executive Officer, Executive Office

Comings

Andrew Allimadi, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Calendar

December

[UN Conference on Climate Change](#)

30 November - 11 December, Paris

[Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, for Caribbean Countries](#)

1-4 December, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

[International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

3 December

[Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Handbook on the Management of Population and Housing Censuses](#)

14-17 December, New York

[World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\)](#)

15-16 December, New York

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 Communication Section/SPCS 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.