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Securing resources for the future we want

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July presents a unique opportunity to agree on a global plan to finance sustainable development, paving the way for a successful UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda and a universal agreement on climate later this year. As the countdown continues with a series of preparatory events, the global community is getting ready to invest ahead – for people and planet.



Watch the video: <http://bit.ly/1QPuTBE>

Drafting sessions; hearings with business sector and civil society; spring meeting events of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and of the World Bank and IMF; and regional consultations – these are some of the many recent events taking place as preparations intensify for the Financing for Development Conference to be held in the Ethiopian capital on 13-16 July.

“Financing the new sustainable development agenda is a challenge, but it is possible,” said Wu Hongbo, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of this upcoming conference. “The resources are there, they need to be effectively mobilized, channeled and used for the purpose of sustainable development,” he said at a press briefing held in conjunction with the ECOSOC Special high-level meeting on 20-21 April with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD. He also pointed to some of the obstacles yet to overcome, including corruption, tax evasion and illicit financial flows.

Partnerships crucial for successful outcome

“Too much is at stake,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



said as he addressed the opening of the event, underscoring the need to identify and tackle the root causes of the biggest challenges to economic growth. He also urged governments, the business sector and civil society to work closely together to push

forward the post-2015 development agenda.

“The post-2015 development agenda is ambitious. The financing needs are enormous. They can be met if we work together but we will not succeed unless we forge a partnership and learn the lessons of the current global economy,” he said, also describing the opportunities of the Addis Ababa gathering to devise a politically inclusive development agenda.

Ban Ki-moon also highlighted three things which the outcome must provide. “First, a cohesive and holistic financing framework for sustainable development; second, concrete deliverables, particularly in crucial areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, social needs, and support for small- and medium-sized enterprises; and third, a strong follow-up process to ensure that no country is left behind.”

Back to back events to prepare for the Conference

April has been an intensive month with back to back events arranged to prepare the world community for the upcoming Addis Conference and the agreement expected to be reached there. Regional consultations have continued with events in Amman, Jordan on 7-8 April and in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 29-30 April.



Taking place in parallel with the high-level ECOSOC event, a special session was also held at UN Headquarters on 21-24 April. UN Member States then considered proposals to align the Conference outcome with the new sustainable development

agenda that will be adopted this September. At the core of this new agenda, which will be valid until 2030, are 17 proposed sustainable development goals.

Despite the financial crisis, opportunities are there to mobilize resources to fund this agenda. According to the recent report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, global savings from public and private sources totals \$22 trillion a year. The report suggests that “even a small shift in the way resources are allocated would have an enormous impact.”



At the IMF / World Bank Spring meetings in Washington D.C. on 17-19 April, the UN Secretary-General and Mr. Wu raised the profile and importance of the Financing for Development Conference

and secured the support and cooperation of key partners to push for an ambitious outcome in Addis Ababa.

Ban Ki-moon highlighted the main goal of this year of global action: “to eradicate poverty and create shared prosperity.” He also pointed to the expected gains of this transformation saying that “it can be a catalyst for [economic] growth that is cleaner, more sustainable and more equitable. As leaders of public finance, you can help plant the seeds of this transformation.”

The way forward for financing for development and the expectations that the world community has for the upcoming conference, were also discussed by Mr. Wu and other panellists at the IMF seminar “Financing for Development: The Way Forward,” held on 17 April as part of the Spring Meetings.

Negotiating ways to finance sustainable development

On 13-17 April, negotiators from 193 countries convened for the second drafting session of the ‘zero draft’ of the outcome document of the Conference – known as the Addis Ababa Accord, sharing their comments and providing concrete suggestions on the text. The process is “moving towards a conclusion,” said Ambassador George Talbot of Guyana, one of the two co-facilitators of the preparatory process. He called upon UN Member State representatives to “keep the level of ambition high” to ensure an “ambitious outcome” in Addis Ababa this July.

During this session, Conference Secretary-General Wu Hongbo also presented the new conference website as well as the new logo. Further consultations on the ‘zero draft’ document will be held in May, ahead of the third and final drafting session which will take place in New York between 15 and 19 June.

The views and inputs from the business sector and civil society were also heard and taken into consideration during informal interactive hearings on 8-9 April. Their involvement in outlining a successful new agenda and being part of the creation of a financing framework was stressed at this event.

“I urge private sector leaders — including CEOs — to join us in Addis Ababa, and to consider new commitments for investment in sustainable development — including in the vital area of infrastructure,” Ban Ki-moon said at the opening of the hearings.

Taking all the necessary actions to get ready, the United Nations, its partners along with the international community, are now



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approaching the first of this year's milestone events. It has the potential of unlocking much needed resources, bringing us closer to the future we want.

The expected significance of this year, for generations to come, has also been stressed by the Secretary-General on numerous occasions. "2015 is perhaps the most important year for development since the founding of the UN 70 years ago," he said at the recent Spring Meetings in Washington D.C.

For more information:

[Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#)
[Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific](#)

[Press conference with Conference Secretary-General Wu Hongbo \[UN Web TV\]](#)

[Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF](#)

Envisioning a greener future: Forest Forum to define priority actions until 2030

Recognizing that forests are vital for global sustainable development, all 197 Member and Observer States of the United Nations Forum on Forests will gather for its eleventh session on 4-15 May. This session is a political milestone in multilateral forest policy, as Members of the Forum will deliberate and agree on the post-2015 International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and define priority action areas for international forest policy for the next 15 years.



The Forum is the only intergovernmental body that addresses all issues related to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests at the United Nations.

Since its inception in 2001, the Forum has catalyzed actions by countries to reduce deforestation; to improve the livelihoods of people who depend on forests for their sustenance; to increase the area of forests under protection; and to facilitate assistance to developing countries to foster sustainable forest management.

The main theme of UNFF11, which will be held at UN Headquarters in New York, is "Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the International Arrangement on Forests". The objective of this session is to: (a) review the effectiveness of the current IAF; (b) review progress towards achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Forest Instrument, and (c) review the contribution of forests and the IAF to internationally agreed development goals.

There will be two official negotiated outcomes for UNFF11 namely, a Ministerial Declaration and a resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015.

Forests are integral to the post-2015 development agenda

2015 is a critical year for forests and global sustainable development. This is the year the United Nations will set the framework for action for the development agenda of the next 15 years. Forests' contributions to global sustainable development are being widely recognized, as evidenced by their integration in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated targets.

UNFF11 is a timely opportunity for the forest community to provide their input in the ongoing deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. When the Forum concludes its session, there will only be 133 days left until the United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in September, at UNHQ in New York.

Strengthening political commitment for forests

UNFF11 will include a High-level Segment that will be held from 13 to 14 May to deliberate on the future International Arrangement on Forests and its integration in the broader context of the post-2015 development agenda. The High-level Segment (HLS) will adopt the UNFF11



ministerial declaration through which Ministers will outline their vision for transformative actions and commitments on the future International Arrangement on Forests.

The UNFF11 High-level Segment will feature statements by Ministers and Heads of Delegation as well as interactive

discussions. On 14 May, two round tables will be held on: “Integration of forests in the post-2015 development agenda”; and “Renewed commitments to the implementation of the international arrangements on forests beyond 2015”.

The HLS will also include a High-level Dialogue on “Transformative Partnerships for Forests, beyond 2015” with the heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the heads of the regional organizations and senior representatives of major groups.

In addition, some 23 side events will also take place during the Forum session. Some of these events will touch upon issues such as biodiversity and forest conservation, food security, community forestry, landscape restoration, financing for sustainable forest management, regional cooperation, governance and forest tenure.

For more information:

[11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests](#)

[Follow the 11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests plenary sessions live via UN Web TV](#)

Forum puts spotlight on indigenous youth

Indigenous peoples suffer great risk of suicide. For example, in some regions the suicide rate among young indigenous women and men is five to six times the rate of non-indigenous youths. Some communities report even higher rates. The alarming over-representation of suicide among indigenous youth was one of the main topics during the two-week long 14th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which concludes on 1 May.



Around the globe today, one out of five people is between the ages of 15 and 24. Among the estimated 370 million indigenous people in the world, there are over 70 million indigenous youth. Their situation received special attention during the forum, when the issue of indigenous youth suicide and self-harm was addressed.

“Our current reality does not reflect the necessary elements that produce physical, spiritual, emotional and mental health,” stated E’Sha Hoferer and Ida Ophaug on behalf of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus. “We are continually faced by extreme poverty, loss and rejection of identity, destruction of traditional languages and cultural practices,” they stressed, also pointing to examples of threats undermining the health and future of indigenous youth.

Injustices affecting health

Historical injustices, as a result of colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, that many indigenous peoples have suffered and continue to suffer, have to a major extent not been resolved. This has had an impact on indigenous peoples in many ways including on their physical and mental well-being.

In addition, indigenous youth are often frustrated because of additional challenges they face when balancing between the culture of their family and of the non-indigenous majority, seeking inclusion and acceptance in both. Many end up feeling marginalized from both of these communities, resulting in a sense of socio-cultural isolation.



The marginalization of indigenous peoples has, in many cases, triggered drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and a host of other traumatic conditions. These conditions are then ultimately suffered by indigenous youth and present themselves in many forms, including self-harm and suicide.

“Before we reach adulthood we see in our community and among our friends and family premature death, jail, substance abuse and physical abuse that lead to those feelings of helplessness and depression that in turn lead to self-harm,” said Natan Ambrams, representative of the youth of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Isolation hindering healthcare

Due to geographic and cultural isolation, indigenous youth are less likely to receive adequate health care, including mental health care.

“It is entirely shameful that indigenous children and youth are not afforded the same opportunities, support and services that non-indigenous children and youth are provided,” said Mrs. Kimberly Jonathan, Interim Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Many indigenous youth have lost faith in services that could help them, such as counseling services. They often have doubts about the cultural competence and generally do not believe they can be helped. Representatives of the Swedish as well as Norwegian Samis stressed the need of healthcare-institutions with indigenous competence.

“There is empirical evidence suggesting that treatment of mental health issues is most effective when the therapist belongs to the same culture as the patient; communicates in the same language; and knows the patient’s cultural conditions,” said Mr. Runar Myrnes Balto, Sami Parliament of Norway.

Striving to ensure life of dignity for all

Every suicide has a wide impact, affecting many people, not only among the deceased person’s family and loved ones. But feelings of loss, grief and mourning are spread throughout the community.

“We are incredibly tired of having to live with the feeling of who is going to commit suicide next. We do not want to bury more of our friends and colleagues. We do not want to see more young people suffering from mental illness,” said Mr. Per Jonas Partapuoli, Chair for the Sami youth organization Sáminuorra in Sweden.

Decision-makers must learn about the realities of indigenous peoples in order to make their human rights a vital part of the post-2015 development agenda. The Forum of Indigenous Issues gives the indigenous people a say in their own future.

During this year’s session, the forum has also addressed topics including the follow up on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the post-2015 development agenda and the situation of indigenous peoples living in the Pacific region.

“Let us strive to ensure that the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous peoples are fulfilled – rights that are essential to basic dignity and even to survival,” stressed Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson as he spoke at the opening of the forum. “I count on all of you – Member States, Indigenous Peoples and other partners – to make change happen and stand up for a life of dignity for all.”

Photos by Broddi Sigurðarson/UN DESA

For more information:

[14th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

[Hear participants at the 14th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Regional fora to prepare for High-level Political Forum on sustainable development



The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development will hold its third meeting from 26 June to 8 July 2015 under the theme “Strengthening integration, implementation and review – the HLPF after 2015”. It will reflect on how the post-

2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, can best be implemented and reviewed once adopted. More particularly it will consider how it can best deliver its role starting from 2016. To prepare for this event, the UN Regional Commissions will hold fora on sustainable development in May.

The regional dimension will be critical in both implementation and review of the new agenda. Given this importance, the resolution establishing the HLPF invited UN Regional Commissions to contribute to the work of the Forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities and major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

In preparation for the 2015 meeting of the HLPF, UN Regional Commissions are holding fora on sustainable development, three of which are scheduled for May. The Regional Forum of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will be held from 5 to 7 May, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will hold its Regional Forum on 21 and 22 May, and the Economic Commission for Africa’s (ECA) Regional Forum is likely to also take place in May, with the date to be confirmed.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) held their Regional Fora in March and April respectively. The programmes of the different meetings vary, but all include discussions on the regional dimension of implementing the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs, and questions of follow-up and review. The regional fora are considered as crucial to allow a focused preparatory process.

High-level Political Forum’s third meeting

The HLPF is the main United Nations platform dealing with sustainable development. It provides political leadership and guidance, follows up and reviews progress in implementing sustainable development commitments and addresses new and emerging challenges. It also seeks to enhance the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and to strengthen the science-policy interface.

The HLPF meets every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly, and annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. This year’s meeting is under ECOSOC auspices. UN system and other organizations, as well as the major groups and other stakeholders of civil society will participate. As the main United Nations platform dealing with sustainable development, the HLPF will promote and track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For more information:

[High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)

Ensuring gender equality and rights of children within families



The 2015 observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May, aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for action to ensure gender equality and rights of children within families and prevent family violence through fair

family law frameworks and a variety of programme interventions.

UN DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) supports the worldwide observance of the International Day of Families by preparing background information on the family for use by Governments, the UN system, including the regional commissions, and UN Information Centres and NGOs.

The observance will feature an expert panel discussion focusing on the following topics:

- Changing families and the need for policy response
- Access to justice in family laws

- Gender equality and women and girls empowerment in family laws
- Children's rights in family laws
- Regional perspectives on gender equality and children's rights in contemporary families
- Family laws and family policy development
- Prevention of violence in families and communities

The annual observance of the International Day of Families reflects the importance the international community attaches to families and is an opportunity to demonstrate support to families. Governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and individuals are encouraged to organize observances of the Day to raise awareness of issues relating to families and increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. Such observances can promote a better understanding of the functions, strengths and needs of families.

For more information: [International Day of Families](#)

Making the new agenda happen through partnerships



On 28 May, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will bring together a wide range of stakeholders for its 2015 Annual Partnerships Forum "The role of Partnerships in achieving the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Making it

Happen."

This year's discussions and program will focus on how partnerships can engage and support international sustainable development. As in year's past, the goal is to create an interactive dialogue where participants discuss fresh ideas and new thinking on ways in which partnerships can support the implementation of a new development agenda.

The event will bring together representatives from governments, the UN system, businesses, foundations, civil society, and academia, all of whom have a vested interest in shaping an effective and potentially game-changing Post-2015 development agenda.

Outcomes from the forum, including 'key messages' from the dialogues and policy options for Member States will be reported back to the Council's high-level segment during its 2015

substantive session in July and will inform the Special Summit on the Post-2015 to be held in September 2015.

The morning session will focus on catalysing partnerships for health systems strengthening. The program will build on the 5 December 2014, ECOSOC Special Meeting on "Ebola: A Threat to Sustainable Development," which highlighted the need to link emergency response to longer-term efforts to strengthen health systems.

Featured speakers include: Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director, U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti, Regional Director of Africa, WHO, and Mr. Jeffrey Wright, Actor and Founder of the Ebola Survival Fund. The session will include Ministers of Health from a number of African countries and will be moderated by Professor Paul Farmer, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Community Based Medicine and Lessons from Haiti, Co-Founder of Partners in Health.

The afternoon session, entitled "Partnerships for the Post 2015 Era: Reality Check" will expand on ECOSOC's 27th February Special Meeting on Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Models: Making them work for the post 2015 Agenda which explored critical issues related to measurement and alignment. This session will convey ideas on ways in which multi-stakeholder partnerships can support the implementation of the new development agenda, including through lessons-learned from Millennium Development Goals partnerships, opportunities for catalyzing new initiatives, and measuring results. Featured speakers include Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, as well as Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Director-General, CERN who will share insight into how issues such as science can be a cross-cutting tool for implementing and devising partnerships as part of the development agenda.

For more information: [The role of Partnerships in achieving the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Making it Happen](#)

Celebrating 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth



The world will look back on the 20 years since the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) during a high level event on 29 May, organized by the President of the General Assembly in

coordination with the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and UN DESA.

The World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995, provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world. The Secretary-Generals' Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2014) notes that in order for the sustainable development agenda to be successful it must be 'streamlined and employ existing mechanisms and processes'. The success of the Sustainable Development Goals is therefore rooted in ensuring the full and effective implementation of mechanisms such as the World Programme of Action for Youth.

The WPAY remains highly relevant and inspirational, but unfortunately implementation lags behind the commitments made. 2015 is a critical year to generate new ideas on how to revitalize the commitments of Governments and all other stakeholders by looking at ways to link inclusive, participatory and gender-responsive implementation of the WPAY to the post-2015 development agenda.

The main objective of the High-Level Event of the General Assembly is to mark the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action on Youth (WPAY) and offer an important opportunity for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to take stock of progress made in its implementation, identify the gaps and challenges ahead while discussing the best way forward for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of this ground-breaking agreement.

Held on 29 May in the General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarter, it will be a one-day event consisting of an opening Plenary and open debate where Member States will be given a 2-3 minute intervention to address the General Assembly on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and National Youth policies. The morning session will be followed by two interactive panel discussions with the participation of Member States, UN Agencies, youth-led organizations and other stakeholders followed by a closing session.

Panel discussions will cover the following:

- Panel 1: Focus on stocktaking for the past 20 years since the adoption of WPAY
- Panel 2: Focus on the Role of WPAY looking ahead in conjunction with the implementation of the SDGs

The outcome of the High-Level Event will be a President's summary, which will be circulated to all Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

For more information: [Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth](#)

Good governance at heart of new sustainability agenda



The UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) met for its 14th Session in New York from 20 to 24 April. Experts from over 20 countries discussed the crucial role of public administration and governance for the achievement of proposed sustainable development goals ahead of the United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda this September.

The 14th CEPA Session, which focused on the theme of Building Trust in Government in Pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals: What Will it Take was opened by Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo. "You are meeting at a historic moment", Mr. Wu noted referring to the ongoing intergovernmental deliberations to define the post-2015 development agenda before highlighting the crucial role of public administration in achieving the goals of the new development agenda.

"From ending hunger and poverty, to ensuring quality education, healthy lives, gender equality, and access to water, energy, sanitation, employment, infrastructure, and to reducing inequality, emissions, unsustainable consumption, and to protecting oceans and our ecosystems – none of these goals and their related targets could be achieved without efficient, effective, inclusive, accountable and robust public institution", Mr. Wu said.

"The vital role of institutions is built into the sustainable development goals themselves," said Ms. Margaret Saner, the Chair of CEPA, making particular mention of Goal 16, which will call for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in tandem with promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and access to justice for all. It was noted throughout the week long discussions that the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) present both tremendous opportunities as well as complex challenges to public institutions.

Mr. Wu underlined the importance of changing mind-sets noting that many government institutions work in silos. “With the adoption of the SDGs, which emphasise the three interlinked dimensions of sustainable economic growth, social progress and environmental protection, this traditional mind-set will no longer work. We must therefore get rid of silos, think out of the box, and try to bring the holistic approach into the mainstream of public institutions”, he said.

Highlighted in this year’s session was the importance of building citizens’ trust in government. For example, 2012 data from OECD showed that only 40 per cent of citizens in OECD countries trust their government. “There is need for governments to dialogue with their citizens more effectively to better understand citizen expectations: to keep as close as possible to citizens in designing, developing and implementing policies and programs that affect them. This will be particularly important in attempts to achieve progress on the SDGs”, Ms. Meredith Edwards, CEPA Member noted.

Assistant-Secretary-General Thomas Gass made a presentation on the status of the SDG negotiations and the expected historic impact of the SDG and the post-2015 development agenda; Assistant-Secretary-General Lenni Montiel held an interactive discussion with CEPA on the role of public administration and governance in implementing SDGs and the post-2015 development Agenda; Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women Lakshmi Puri spoke on gender equality and empowerment in advancing sustainable development. Colleagues from the Division for Sustainable Development, the Statistics Division and the Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination also made presentations to CEPA Members.

Next year’s session of CEPA will be held from 18 to 22 April 2016. The Committee has proposed “Moving from commitments to results: transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in implementation and monitoring of the SDGs” as the focus of its work.

For more information: [UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration \(CEPA\)](#)

The road to Addis: Financing for Development logo and website launched



With three months to go until world leaders meet in Addis Ababa to reach an agreement on financing sustainable development, the

Conference logo and website were unveiled at the UN Headquarters in New York on 14 April.

Speaking at the second drafting session of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development outcome document – known as the Addis Ababa Accord – Conference Secretary-General Wu Hongbo presented the new logo and explained its meaning. “The circular form symbolizes the global nature of the Conference,” Wu said, adding that other graphic elements had a distinct African references to pay homage to the Conference’s location.

To ensure sustainable development for all, a multi-faceted finance framework is needed, including inputs from domestic, international, public and private sources. The arrowheads in the logo represent this multi-stakeholder Financing for Development process, Wu said, while “the sun implies the outcome of the Conference, including a comprehensive financing framework and concrete deliverables.”

The newly-launched website (www.un.org/ffd3) will play an important role “as the main online information platform for the Conference,” Wu added, clarifying that it will contain “substantive and organizational information, materials and documents regarding the host country, the Conference venue, the preparatory process, the Conference programme and the outcome document”.

Cristina Gallach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information also addressed delegates at the Financing for Development drafting session, providing the bigger picture on public and media outreach planned ahead of the upcoming Conference. The meeting in Addis Ababa is “a major milestone” in a critical year, she said, positioning Conference communications in the context of the UN’s flagship “2015: Time for Global Action” campaign.

Outlining the next steps for Financing for Development outreach, Gallach mentioned the production of multilingual posters, banners and promotional materials, the engagement of global media outlets, and collaboration with the international network of 63 United Nations Information Centres. “Our aim is to ensure that the message reaches every corner of the world,” she said.

H.E. Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative for Ethiopia, emphasized that “Addis is ready,” explaining that the logistical preparations for the meeting are already well underway and that it will be “a great honour and privilege” for Ethiopia to host high-level delegates from around the world in July.

The current drafting session of the Addis Ababa Accord will continue in New York until 17 April, with the third and final drafting session taking place in the same location from 15 to 19

June. From 13 to 16 July, countries will gather at the third International Conference on Financing for Development at the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, to help unlock public and private resources and direct long-term investments that deliver results.

Source: [United Nations 2015 Time for Global Action website](#)

Development cooperation for people and planet



Nearly 200 participants representing governments, parliaments, academia, private sector and the local and regional level attended the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) High-level Symposium co-organized by UN DESA and the

Republic of Korea in Incheon on 8 – 10 April to discuss the future of development cooperation post-2015.

Co-chaired by Wu Hongbo, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General and Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the DCF High-level Symposium's discussions were held under the theme "Development cooperation for people and planet: what will it take?" Questions such as aligning commitments on financing and other means of implementation, implications of a universal development agenda, improving ODA allocation and monitoring and accountability of development cooperation were tackled in interactive panel discussions and workshops with active participation.

The objective of the Symposium was to feed into the negotiations on the way to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in July and the post-2015 Summit in New York in September. Several key messages were derived from the results of the DCF Symposium, directly contributing to the negotiation efforts on building the new global development agenda post-2015 and its implementation.

It was emphasized that international development cooperation, in all its forms and facets, supports national efforts in strengthening economic and social development and global challenges. Development cooperation will continue to be of relevance to all countries in a post-2015 world. All resources will need to be more strategically used and combined to generate long-term impact. A renewed global partnership is needed to help mobilize resources needed to go beyond economic and social development to sustainable development in all its dimensions.

The discussions in the Symposium highlighted the crucial role of capacity building, ownership and inclusiveness. People, planet and participation are the most crucial elements in bringing the new global development agenda and its implementation to the local level. Access to technology, innovation as well as the role of the private sector was also emphasized in the debates. Ownership is crucial in order to make the sustainable development goals everyone's goals.

The Symposium also underscored the need to strengthen the Financing for Development follow-up process. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should have a central role, especially due to its engagement with the World Bank, IMF, WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP and other institutional stakeholders. The Development Cooperation Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC remains a central part of the monitoring, review and follow-up on the means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda, given its intergovernmental, inclusive, focused and forward-looking character.

ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik said in his closing statement: "There is broad consensus that the agenda's successful implementation will depend on a comprehensive financing framework for sustainable development. This framework must be relevant to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in all regions and for all income groups, and should seek coherence and maximize synergies with other financing streams."

Mr. Wu also stated: "In the area of international cooperation for development, no stone should be left unturned. Policies and solutions exist. Past lessons tell that the post-2015 development agenda will only succeed with means and implementation and a strong follow-up process and mechanisms."

The DCF Republic of Korea High-level Symposium proved once again the DCF to be an inclusive policy space to discuss the implications of a unified and universal agenda for development cooperation. It will continue to advocate for development cooperation, in order to keep it at the heart of the global partnership for sustainable development post-2015. The trends and effectiveness of development cooperation will also stay at the forefront of the DCF's work, including South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation.

The preparations for the next DCF, to be held in New York in the summer of 2016, were launched in Incheon. Following the Incheon Symposium, discussions will continue in the next High-level Symposiums to be held in Uganda in November 2015 and in Belgium in April 2016.

For more information: [DCF Republic of Korea Symposium](#)

ECOSOC leads the way to new employment creation network



More than 200 million people in the world are currently looking for a job, and almost half of the world's employed population are working in vulnerable conditions. As UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson indicated "Decent jobs that

provide a fair income, good working conditions, access to social protection and freedom of association remain out of reach for too many".

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) demonstrated how the creation of sufficient good quality jobs would be critical for the realization of the post-2015 development agenda during its recent Integration Segment (30 March-1 April). The meeting brought together the President of Tanzania, the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and Sweden, a number of Ministers, the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Mobility, the United Nations system, Nobel Prize laureates (Professor Stiglitz and Professor Shiller), media representatives (CNN, Al Jazeera America, The Economist), non-governmental organizations, trade unions, academia, and the private sector.

The discussions generated a number of substantive responses to central issues such as jobless economic growth, youth unemployment, informal employment, rising inequalities, climate change, the international labour standards, jobs and skills mismatch. "Getting to the core of these issues has demonstrated that policy choices have both trade-offs and long-term benefits, and must be addressed in an integrated way if we are to successfully implement the post-2015 development agenda" according to Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of UN-DESA.

Economic growth has not generated jobs as expected, due to insufficient demand in both developed and developing economies. Governments were called on to stimulate aggregate demand through financial and tax policies. Professor Joseph Stiglitz called for a carbon tax and a financial transaction tax that could help stimulate the economy and address the rising inequalities.

Rising income inequality was considered a major factor inhibiting economic growth, increasing social tensions and exacerbating political instability. Income inequality also has long term negative consequences for productivity and human capital development. Mitigating the widening gap between rich and poor will require a

greater focus on living wages, collective bargaining and the social protection floor. In relation to this,

Professor Robert Shiller proposed subsidies for low-income employment, as well as an emergency plan to address rising inequalities by raising taxes on the rich and subsidizing the poor. Infrastructure and industrialisation were considered to be critical pillars for economic growth and job creation in Africa. President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania stressed "Another challenge we have to content with is that of the striking the proper balance between preserving the environment on one side and promoting growth and creating jobs to meet urgent problem of unemployment on the other. This is an African and a global dilemma that needs to be addressed".

Experts demonstrated that environmental sustainability and job creation can be mutually reinforcing, and transitioning to more environmentally sustainable approaches can have a positive impact on job creation, quality and productivity. The transition to a green economy, however, needs to be a just transition for workers.

Youth unemployment continues to be a major challenge in countries of all income levels. This represents an enormous wasted opportunity, given that youth tend to be societies' main source of innovation – they are typically the most technologically literate, are early adopters of new trends, more likely to take risks and start new ventures. Acknowledging this challenge, Prime Minister Perry Gladstone Christie of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas said "I pause here to pay special tribute to the youth of CARICOM and once again pledge the commitment of all governments in the region to address the issue of the integration of young people into our economies".

Combining hard skills, in particular trades and professions, with soft skills, such as creative thinking and team work, should be a key feature of all programmes tackling youth unemployment. The international community must harness the potential of technology in reducing the jobs and skills mismatch.

New innovative forms of social dialogue—drawing on the participation of trade unions, civil society, governments and businesses—are needed to adequately address evolving labour markets and consequent challenges in the 21st century. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven of Sweden called for a new "Global Deal" among governments, trade unions, businesses, and key international institutions to promote growth, jobs and decent work. He added that "a Global Deal between the stakeholders will make an important and concrete contribution to the work on sustainable development in all three of its dimensions".

"Implementation of International Labour Standards is critical for ensuring the dignity of workers" said ILO Director General Guy Ryder. Trade unions in many parts of the world, however,

continue to face barriers to organizing workers and unfortunately economic growth has not eliminated abuses of core international labour standards. Greater emphasis will be required on implementing the norms and labour rights in implementing the post-2015 development agenda.

At the conclusion of the Segment, Vice-President of ECOSOC Ambassador Vladimir Drobnyak announced the proposal to launch a Global Network of Stakeholders on Employment Creation and Decent Work for Sustainable Development, to be co-convened by him and the Director-General of the International Labour Organization. This network will be ECOSOC's contribution towards addressing this global challenge of monumental proportions.

For more information: [ECOSOC 2015 Integration Segment](#)

Trends and Analysis

Unleashing the power of ‘where’

Everything that happens, happens somewhere over space and time. The world is getting more connected and goods, persons and information can travel greater distances in shorter amounts of time. However, this has not eliminated hunger, poverty, disease, disasters and environmental challenges. In order to measure, monitor and mitigate these challenges we need to bring together the best data – satellite, demographic, statistical, geospatial, and environmental – linking the data together with the one thing they have in common – location.

To highlight the significant role that geographical information – collected at local, national and global level – plays in the realization of the sustainable development goals, the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), in collaboration with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations organized a side event themed ‘Unleashing the power of “where” to make the world a better place: How geographic information contributes to achieving the SDG’s’.

The side event outlined the many ways in which geographic information helps governments measure and monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Satellites can do much more than just take pretty pictures from space,” Lawrence Friedl, Director of NASA’s Applied Science Program and one of the panellists remarked.

Geospatial information systems help statisticians collect, manage, analyse and display detailed geographical information about the earth and all processes and circumstances existing on it. These systems can be used to visualize complex data in the form of charts, maps and report. By making the data easily understood and shared, they give policymakers an insight into patterns, relationships and trends that occur within our society.

Yusuf Djajadihardja, Deputy Chair of the Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency, and one of the events’ panellists, emphasized the importance of the collection of geographic information for the Indonesian archipelago. The country not only has a rapidly expanding population and economy, but also experiences many natural threats, including volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tsunamis and earthquakes.

The same is true for the world’s Small Island Developing States (SIDS). While most of them are popular tourist destinations, the deterioration of fragile ecosystems severely impacts both traditional agriculture and the tourism industry locally. Getting a clearer picture on where most of the problems occur is the first step into creating policy that promotes sustainable development.

“Geospatial data is critical to contribute to evidence-based decision making in addressing the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS,” Nadine Brown of the Sustainable Development and Regional Planning Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica said.

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

For more information: [The United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management](#)

Strengthening social development in the contemporary world



The strengthening of social development in the contemporary world will be at the center of an expert group meeting organized at UN headquarters in New York on 19-20 May by UN DESA’s Division on Social Policy and

Development Division (DSPD) in preparation for the 54th session of the Commission for Social Development.

Building on discussions on the review of progress made in social development during and in the lead-up to the Commission’s 53rd session, experts will discuss broad policy directions to strengthen social development, identify challenges and opportunities for social policy, and explore effective social policy frameworks in the context of implementing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

The outcomes of the meeting will contribute to the work of the Commission by providing concrete, evidence-based recommendations for promoting and strengthening social

development and for improving the formulation and implementation of policy frameworks that affect social progress.

For more information: [UN DESA's Division on Social Policy and Development](#)

Discussing international statistical classifications



The Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications will hold its biennial meeting in New York on 19-22 May 2015. It will discuss a wide range of topics, targeting specific classifications and broader issues including: the new concept of the Family of

International Classifications, metadata standards and information models, the impact of the integration of statistical and geospatial information on international classifications, and implications for classifications arising out of the use of big data.

Among the individual classifications to be discussed by the Expert group are: a proposal to revise the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP), a discussion on the need to revise the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), and the recent update of the Central product Classification (CPC).

The Expert Group will also review progress made in the revisions of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC), the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS) and the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) and discuss experiences from the development and implementation of classifications such as the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO08), the International Classification for Crime Statistics (ICCS) and the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS).

For more information: [United Nations Statistics Division](#)

Did you overcome a natural disaster or emergency situation? Tell your story!



The United Nations would like to hear how disability is included in emergency plans of your neighbourhood, office, school, community. Information available shows that persons with disabilities, when compared to the general

population, are disproportionately affected by natural disasters and emergency situations, and are often left behind during such situations.

Moreover, persons with disabilities are a unique resource of knowledge and experience that can help reduce the risk of disasters to help build resilient communities. During the 2011 Great Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan, persons and children with disabilities who had been trained in disaster risk reduction programmes, led the evacuation process and help save the lives of many members of their community.

Share your story to help us highlight good practices and lessons learned in including the needs and perspectives of persons with disabilities – before, during or after – disaster and emergency situations.

General guidelines to write your story:

1. Stories should be under 300 words and emailed to enable@un.org, with the Subject: Inclusion saves lives story and include a photograph.
2. Stories must include facts about real situations and actions taken in your neighbourhood, school, office, community, etc.
3. What barriers and challenges were faced before, during or after a disaster or emergency situation and how were they overcome?
4. Does your neighbourhood, school, office, community, etc. have an emergency plan that includes persons with disabilities? Do periodic fire or evacuation drills include everybody? Describe something unique about it.
5. Let us know what Governments and local organizations of persons with disabilities have done to include everyone in disaster and emergency situation planning, recovery efforts and reconstruction.

For more information: [United Nations Enable](#)

Capacity development

Giving civil society tools to engage in processes determining new development agenda



A regional capacity building workshop will take place in Santiago, Chile on 4 May, informing civil society from Latin America and the Caribbean on the post-2015 development agenda negotiations and the High-level Political Forum on sustainable

development (HLPF) and provide guidance on how to engage in these processes.

The workshop aims to provide civil society representatives with the tools and knowledge to engage effectively with the processes that will determine the future sustainable development agenda. To facilitate participation in this capacity building session, a limited number of participants from the Latin American and Caribbean region are being funded to attend the event.

The workshop is being organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development. It will take place in the margins of the [First Meeting](#) of the Negotiating Committee on Principle 10, which will also be open for civil society participation.

For more information: [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#)

Measuring progress towards achieving a green economy



UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a regional training workshop within the UN Development Account project "Supporting Developing Countries Measure Progress Towards Achieving a Green Economy" in cooperation

with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), on 5-8 May in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The workshop will primarily be a technical workshop that covers topics identified by countries during the first part of the project as needing attention and guidance.

Key elements of the workshop will cover four main statistical domains, namely environment, agriculture, energy statistics, and statistics on new themes related to green economy (e.g. environmental goods and services, green jobs). The contents of each of the fields cover the following: general introduction to the theme; main frameworks and international recommendations covering these fields; internationally agreed definitions and metadata for selected statistics underlying green economy indicators; and detailed description and compilation methods for selected indicators from the reference green economy indicators list of the project.

The workshop will also finalize the discussion on the direct technical assistance to the pilot countries that will take place in the months following this workshop. A similar workshop took place in April 2015, for the Latin America and the Caribbean region in Lima, Peru.

For more information: [UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Collecting and disseminating short-term economic statistics



UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing an International Workshop on Short-term Statistics in Beijing, China, from 18-20 May, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics of China.

This workshop is part of a series of events organized under the project on strengthening statistical capacity development in China and other developing countries in Asia funded by the Chinese Government.

The main objectives are to: (a) discuss the compilation and dissemination of short term economic statistics – e.g. business cycle composite indicators, economic tendency surveys and rapid estimates; (b) share country experience; and (c) take stock of the status of implementation and challenges in the compilation of short term statistics in the region.

The Workshop will also review the template for short-term economic statistics and metadata which was developed to guide and facilitate the compilation and dissemination of these indicators in countries.

For more information: [UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Preparing for Mongolia's national voluntary presentation



UN DESA traveled to Ulanbaatar, Mongolia in March, to provide capacity-building support for the country's national voluntary presentation (NVP) to the Economic and Social Council's 2015 high-level segment in July.

This year's NVP countries will address broadly the 2015 ECOSOC theme, "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What it will take". UN DESA was represented by Mr. Neil Pierre (Office for Ecosoc Support and Coordination) and Mr. John O'Toole (Division for Social Policy and Development).

During their 24-27 March trip, the department met with Ministries and partners from across Government and contributed to Mongolia's consultative, multi-stakeholder workshop in preparation of the finalization of Mongolia's national report in advance of their NVP at UN headquarters in July.

The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and organized to ensure openness, inter-activity and out-of-the-box thinking among participants on the status of the nation's development progress and opportunities and challenges inherent to the coming transition to a more complex sustainable development agenda. Key messages emerging from the discussion included the importance of strengthening institutions and filling capacity gaps in order to address the unfinished business of the MDGs together with implementing the new agenda.

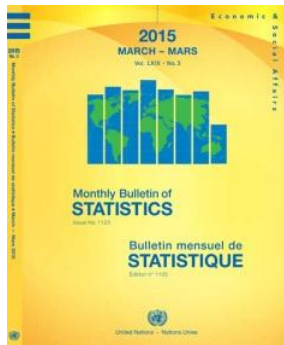
In the weeks and months ahead, UN DESA will deepen its support to Mongolia by overseeing the finalization of the NVP report, preparing the Ministerial visit to ECOSOC's high-level segment in July and supporting national stakeholder consultations on the long-term vision for Mongolia's future.

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

Publications and Websites

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. These data illustrates important economic trends and developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international

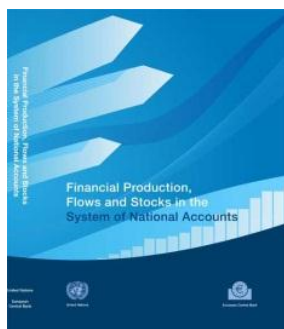
merchandise trade and finance.

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In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly tables: Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex; Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices; 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](#)

Financial Production, Flows and Stocks in the System of National Accounts



The Handbook of National Accounting on “Financial Production, Flows and Stocks in the System of National Accounts” (the Handbook) is one of a number of manuals, handbooks, and guidance notes initiated by the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) to strengthen the statistical capacity of countries to compile national accounts, in

accordance with the global implementation programme for the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics.

The Handbook has been jointly prepared by UN DESA’s Statistics Division and European Central Bank (ECB). It aims to provide practical guidance on the calculation and allocation of the production of various types of financial services and issues related to the compilation of the financial account and balance sheets by institutional sector in the context of from-whom-to-whom relationships.

The Handbook complements the 2008 SNA and related manuals, handbooks and guides. The concepts are described and defined in line with the 2008 SNA. Where appropriate, illustrative worked examples with step-by-step guidance are provided in the handbook to give compilers and users a better picture of how to apply and interpret the various concepts. The handbook is useful for staff working in national statistical offices, national central banks, international organizations and other institutions engaged in collecting, compiling and disseminating national accounts data, specifically on the financial corporations sector and financial account, and for users requiring a better understanding of such data.

Outreach material

Sustainable Development in Action, Volume 3, Issue 4

The April issue published by UN DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development 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. The current edition features the winners of the 2015 Water for Life Awards, as well as a technical report on the process to develop indicator for post-2015 Development agenda.

- [Read full issue](#)

Youth Flash Newsletter

The April edition focuses on youth unemployment and features powerful commentary on how to make the transition from education to employment, innovative solutions to get young people to work a decent job, and the role of internships in securing employment for young people in Macedonia. The newsletter is a service of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) Focal Point on Youth to help keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is

prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and from youth organizations all over the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

DESA NGO News

The April edition includes feature stories about the Commission on the Status of Women and the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan. Published by UN DESA's NGO Branch, the newsletter 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](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 77

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

- Progress in the creation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- GDP growth diverges among developing economies
- Sharp currency depreciations in many emerging economies

- [To download](#)

Websites

New website on the Third International Conference on Financing for Development



The new website contains substantive and organizational information, materials and documents regarding the host country, the Conference venue, the preparatory process, the Conference programme and the outcome document.

- [To browse](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in April:

Leonardo Souza, Statistician, Statistics Division

Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild, Sr. Programme Officer, Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Joshua Del Duca, Staff Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Calendar

May

ECLAC regional capacity building workshop

4 May, Santiago, Chile

14th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

20 April - 1 May, New York

UN Forum on Forests, Eleventh session

4-15 May, New York

International Day of Families

15 May

Expert group meeting in preparation for the 54th session of the Commission for Social Development

19-20 May, New York

Expert group on international statistical classifications

19-22 May, New York

ECOSOC 2015 Annual Partnerships Forum

28 May, New York

High-Level Event of the President of the GA marking the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth

29 May, 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.