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Partnering with islands for a sustainable world

The global community is now only two months away from the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which offers a once in a decade opportunity to focus the world's attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development. Final preparations are now being completed and on 24 July, Conference Secretary-General Wu Hongbo will engage in a live Google+ Hangout on how to empower youth for sustainable islands.



Watch video on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/1nWK5eB>

Exploring ways to build high-impact and sustainable partnerships with small island developing States was one of the main focus points for countries gathered at UN Headquarters on 23-26 June for the Preparatory Committee meeting held ahead of the conference in September.

“We have an opportunity to establish genuine and durable partnerships that will create innovative solutions that can bring us closer to a sustainable future,” said the Conference’s Secretary-General, Wu Hongbo, who is also UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General. “These partnerships can serve as a model to address pressing issues that affect not just small islands developing states, but many of which are already having an impact all over the world.”

While small island nations face unique circumstances and vulnerabilities such as extreme weather conditions and isolation, they are also at the forefront of finding innovative solutions to global challenges like climate change, access to energy and environmental degradation.

The conference, which will be held on 1-4 September in Apia, Samoa, seeks to galvanize partnerships in the following six clusters: Sustainable Economic Development; Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management; Social Development in SIDS, Health and Non-Communicable Diseases, Youth and Women; Sustainable Energy; Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity; and Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management.

Accelerating preparations

During the Preparatory Committee meeting, Member States also worked to complete the conference’s draft outcome document, which outlines the main challenges and priorities for small island

developing states. Countries had sent government experts from their capitals to take part in the negotiations and to ensure that the document represents the diversity of national perspectives.

The Preparatory Committee meeting was the final opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to gather before the conference, where they will negotiate the final elements of the outcome document.

“The international conference in Samoa will be a major milestone for small island developing states, but it will also be an important part of the post-2015 development agenda,” Mr. Wu said. “I am confident that this last part of the preparatory process will lead us to a successful conference where new and concrete partnerships will be created, that will lead the way to a more sustainable future for all.”

The Conference in September will provide world leaders a first-hand opportunity to experience the climate and poverty challenges of small islands and will result in the announcement of over 200 concrete partnerships for lifting islanders out of poverty and braving challenges such as rising sea levels, overfishing, and typhoons and tsunamis.

Together from here to Samoa

The event is meant to give countries an opportunity to demonstrate solidarity and partnership with small island developing nations said Mr. Wu at the press conference that was held on 23 June together with the Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN, Mr. Ali’ioaiga Feturi Elisaia.

Mr. Elisaia said that his Government, as well as those of other similar island nations, are looking for partnerships that are specific to their contexts, able to be implemented within a timeframe, and reportable. “No partnership is insignificant,” Mr. Elisaia told the press, pointing to the relevance of all partnerships.



Following the press conference, the Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations and UN DESA, hosted a special briefing event “Together from here to Samoa: SIDS 2014 in Partnership.” This was a well-attended joint event, which provided UN member States with further

updates on the work preparing for the conference, including practical travel and accommodation details.

“I am deeply appreciative of the leadership of Samoa in advancing the spirit and concrete progress of partnerships. I am also grateful to various partners, developed and developing alike, along with

major groups and other stakeholders, for supporting partnerships through concrete actions,” Mr. Wu said at this briefing event.

Google+ Hangout focusing on the role of youth

In the run up to the major event in September, Mr. Wu will host a live Google+ Hangout event on 24 July, engaging with youth representatives from this group of countries on the topic of ‘Samoa 2014: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Islands.’ The event will highlight successful youth activities already happening and it will also demonstrate the potential of these efforts.

The hangout will also be an opportunity for youth to voice their views on what is needed to achieve sustainable development for Small Island Developing States and how young people and youth organizations can contribute to partnerships. More information on the Google+ Hangout event will become available soon on the SIDS Conference website (please see the link provided below).

At UN Headquarters and all around the world, nations, government leaders, civil society organizations and UN System agencies are now getting ready and counting down to this milestone event, taking place in just two months’ time in the beautiful location of Apia, Samoa.

And what happens there will have global effects. Something that Mr. Wu also referred to in his concluding remarks before the Preparatory Committee on 23 June. “Small island developing States are at the frontline of global sustainable development. Their mission is our mission,” Mr. Wu said.

For more information:

[Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States](#)

[International Year of Small Island Developing States](#)

[The final PrepCom meeting of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\) – Press Conference \(UN Web TV\)](#)

[Blog of Conference Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo](#)

[New Sina Weibo page of Mr. Wu Hongbo](#)

Building the future we want at ECOSOC

From 30 June to 11 July, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will connect the many related efforts to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and consider how to set the stage for success of the global development agenda that will follow the Goals after 2015.



The MDGs have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. With a number of sub-targets covering a range of poverty, hunger, health, gender equality, education and environmental indicators, the MDGs were embraced by all UN Member States.

Major progress at the global, regional, national and local level shows that millions of people's lives have improved due to concerted, targeted efforts by many different groups and individuals. Several targets have already been met, such as halving the number of people living in extreme poverty. It is expected that more targets will be reached by the end of 2015 when most MDGs are set to be achieved.

Final push to achieve MDGs and create sustainable post-2015 development agenda

World leaders have called for an ambitious long-term sustainability agenda to succeed the MDGs. Building on the successes of the MDGs, this post-2015 development agenda will address any unfinished business of the MDGs and new challenges and complexities facing the world with sustainable development at its core and poverty eradication as its highest priority. World leaders will meet at a Summit in September 2015 to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals.

“With so many lives already changed because of the focused efforts by so many partners and stakeholders, we must persist and make a common final push to achieve the MDGs,” H.E. Mr.

Martin Sajdik, President of ECOSOC, said. “We must reflect on the lessons learnt through the MDGs and weave them into our thinking and actions going forward to determine a brighter future for all.”

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development kicks off two-week event

More than 500 delegates will attend three high-level meetings in the coming two weeks. There will be many high-profile speakers, among them, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson; the President of the General Assembly John Ashe; and more than 50 Ministers. The meetings will also bring together a diverse group of participants, including: ministerial-level and senior representatives from Member States; mayors; parliamentarians; UN system officials; civil society representatives; and key figures from the private sector and foundations.

From 30 June to 9 July, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will meet under the auspices of ECOSOC, and provide political leadership and guidance on sustainable development. The forum will be an occasion to pause and reflect on how far we have advanced in shaping the post 2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). It will discuss how to chart the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda. In the coming years, the HLPF will guide the implementation of the sustainable development goals after they are likely adopted in September 2015.

On 1 July, the Prototype of a Global Sustainable Development Report will be launched at the HLPF to illustrate possibilities for strengthening the scientific foundation of sustainable development policies. This will be important as we move to the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda. The report illustrates a range of alternative approaches and various ways of engaging the scientific community with policy makers, as well as scenarios for the future and ways to address new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

MDG Report 2014 launch and ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review

On 7 July, the Secretary-General will present The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014 at the opening of the High-level segment of ECOSOC. The report is an annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals, and reflects the most comprehensive, up-to-date data compiled by over 28 UN and international agencies.

Ministers and high-level officials will measure the progress and identify the obstacles remaining in the final year to achieve the MDGs, and deliver policy messages to define a path that sustains development gains into the future at the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) from 8-9 July. As part of the national dimension of the AMR, ten presenters – Bolivia, Gambia, Georgia, Kuwait,

Mexico, Qatar, Sudan, Thailand, United Kingdom and the State of Palestine— will make National Voluntary Presentations. They will share experiences on progress made and remaining obstacles to achieving the MDGs and other international agreed goals.

For the AMR, a Report of the Secretary-General addresses ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in their final year and future goals. For example, the report notes that at least one-fifth of the world's population lives in countries experiencing significant violence, political conflict, and insecurity. The report says such conditions are major obstacles to development, and that the prevention and reduction of all forms of violence should be at the heart of sustaining future development gains.

The report recommends sound national development strategies, strong public institutions, as well as supportive environments that include peace, stability and respect for human rights. The report also suggests actions necessary for achieving development gains that are more inclusive, equitable and sustainable.

ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum

Following the AMR, the Council will hold the fourth biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on 10-11 July to advance global dialogue on the future of development cooperation in the post-2015 era. The broad range of development cooperation actors will examine how development cooperation will need to change to support implementation of a post-2015 development agenda. Through candid and frank discussions, the Forum will call for the delivery on promises made in support of better development results. It will cover a range of issues, including the changing role of Official Development Assistance (ODA), the implications of the changing development cooperation landscape, South-South cooperation, the functioning of a renewed global partnership for development and global monitoring and accountability for development cooperation.

The 2014 DCF will inject key messages and make concrete proposals on the future of development cooperation into the preparations of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Secretary-General's report on *Trends and progress in international development cooperation* will serve as the basis for discussion in several interactive and multi-stakeholder sessions during the DCF. The report reviews recent trends in international development cooperation, focusing on progress in and allocation of Official Development Assistance (ODA), plus trends in other sources of development cooperation – public and private, international and domestic resources – that will be needed to support implementation of an ambitious post-2015 development agenda.

The report says that while ODA will remain crucial, its use will have to be adapted to meet new demands. Developing countries will need continued support in efforts to eradicate poverty and

transition to sustainable development. The type of support should be flexible and country-specific. A transformative post-2015 development agenda must be matched by a different scale and scope of international support. The report concludes that current discussions on the future of development cooperation reveal a readiness among stakeholders to look anew at the fundamentals of development cooperation, suggesting that space is opening up for mobilizing international support that matches the ambition of a transformative post-2015 development agenda.

The two weeks of ECOSOC meetings, including the HLPF, AMR and DCF will touch on various topics, including: science policy, climate change, data availability, financing development, development cooperation, partnerships, sustainable urbanization, youth, decarbonization, sustainable transport, education, health, gender equality, disaster risk reduction, conflict, among others.

After assessing progress on the implementation of development policies and engaging in high-level interactive dialogues, ministers and international institutions will adopt a formal Ministerial Declaration outcome document.

For more information: [ECOSOC High-level segment](#)

Revealing urbanization trends worldwide

The world's urban population has grown rapidly since 1950 and the coming decades will bring further profound changes to its size and distribution. On 10 July, UN DESA's Population Division will release the latest urbanization trends, providing data that are critical for assessing current and future needs with respect to urban growth.



“Virtually all of the world’s population growth for the foreseeable future will occur in urban areas, and this fact will have enormous implications for the success of the post 2015 development agenda,” said John Wilmoth, Director of UN DESA’s Population Division, ahead of the publication release this month.

Scheduled for launch on 10 July, just one day before World Population Day, the latest version of the World Urbanization Prospects will provide new and updated information on global urbanization trends and city growth, which are vital for setting policy priorities to promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for urban and rural areas alike.

Database covers expanded number of cities

The 2014 revision of World Urbanization Prospects will provide a wide array of statistics on levels and trends of urbanization for all countries of the world. Recognizing the importance of smaller cities and towns, this latest revision will expand the number of cities and provide, for the first time, population estimates and projections for all of the world’s urban settlements with 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2014.

“We are very excited that we were able to expand the database in this revision so that now it includes information on approximately 1,700 cities covering roughly 60 percent of the world’s urban population,” said John Wilmoth.

Major patterns for societal transformation

The new study confirms three major elements of emerging patterns of urbanization and city growth. First, more than half of the world’s population resides in urban settlements, and by 2050 it is projected that about two-thirds of all humans will live in urban areas. This unique societal transformation will affect many aspects of our lives.

Second, most of the anticipated urban growth by 2050 will occur in Asia and Africa. Since many countries, particularly in Africa, are urbanizing at lower levels of economic development than most of today’s highly urbanized countries, they will face important challenges in meeting the needs of their growing urban populations, especially with regard to housing, infrastructure, transportation, energy and employment, as well as for basic services such as education and health care.

Third, in many discussions of sustainable development, there is a tendency to focus on the growth of very large cities, including megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants. However, as the new revision of the World Urbanization Prospects makes clear, in 2014 roughly half of all urban dwellers live in settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants.

Looking at megacities around the world today, there are twenty-eight worldwide, with sixteen located in Asia, four in Latin America, three each in Africa and Europe and two in Northern America. In 1970, Tokyo, New York-Newark and Osaka were the only megacities. Tokyo still remains the world’s largest city with an agglomeration of 38 million inhabitants, followed by New Delhi with 25 million, Shanghai with 23 million, and Mexico City, Mumbai and São Paulo, each with around 21 million inhabitants.

Sustainable urbanization beyond 2015

As the world continues to urbanize, sustainable development challenges will be increasingly concentrated in cities, particularly in lower-middle-income countries, where the pace of urbanization is the fastest. At the same time, cities offer opportunities to expand access to services, such as health care and education, for large numbers of people in an economically efficient manner.

Providing public transportation, as well as housing, electricity, water and sanitation for a densely settled urban population is typically cheaper and less environmentally damaging than providing a similar level of services to a dispersed rural population. Urban dwellers also have access to larger and more diversified labour markets, and enjoy healthier lives overall.

At the recent Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) focusing on sustainable urbanization, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted some of the challenges facing cities today. “Climate change is increasing

risks in all cities, where the poorest people are hit the hardest,” he said. But he also pointed to opportunities and how people are at the core of every success story.

“In all our urban policies, we should think of the people they affect,” the Secretary-General said highlighting what is important when considering for example urban transport policies and encouraging businesses activities. “Education is essential. We need to raise a generation of global citizens who use science and technology to develop green technologies that will further sustainable urbanization,” he added.

The 2014 revision of World Urbanization Prospects will provide critical new information on trends in urbanization and city growth, which will inform policymakers throughout the world on the scale of urban challenges in the foreseeable future.

Photo credit: Asst. Prof. Chen Siyuan

For more information:
[World Urbanization Prospects](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Strengthening global governance and rules for post-2015



A core function of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) is the provision of analysis and policy advice to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on cross-sectoral development issues and on international

cooperation for development, focusing on medium- and long-term aspects. On 7 July during the ECOSOC High-level segment, Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Vice Chair of the CDP, will deliver a statement on the global governance and global rules for development post-2015.

In recent years, the Committee has focused its attention on the international and national dimensions of the future United Nations Development Agenda for the post-2015 era. In November 2013, the Committee published a book entitled *Alternative Development Strategies for the Post-2015 Era* that reviews the MDG agenda and proposes new national approaches on the way forward in view of the persistence of old problems and the emergence of new global challenges.

At its last plenary meeting in March 2014, the Committee considered how global governance and global rules could be strengthened to make them more conducive to development. In this interview with the DESA News team, Professor José Antonio Ocampo, the Chairperson of the Committee, explains the role of the CDP and its contribution to the global dialogue on the international sustainable development agenda in the post-2015 era.

He also highlights some of the work areas including that related to the least developed countries. "We have the specific responsibility to determine the rules by which countries are categorized as a least developed country and then to follow up on the stories of the countries which have been in that category, including those which have graduated from it", he explains.

In its report on the 16th session to the Council, the CDP reviews the current global partnership for development and proposes innovative ideas on how to reform global governance and global rules for sustainable development. In the view of the CDP, the current approach on the global partnership for development as addressed in MDG 8 is incomplete.

The Committee argues that intergovernmental cooperation should be placed at the center of the global partnership for development,

and its role in the achievement of global development goals must not be restricted to the mobilization of resources and technical assistance. Intergovernmental cooperation is essential in the process of setting global policy, rules and norms. The Committee further argues that strengthening global governance and global rules is critical in order to better manage the increasing interdependence among countries, to reduce existing and increasing inequalities in many dimensions, and to guarantee the necessary policy space for countries to pursue their own priorities.

The CDP Policy Note: *Global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era*, to be available in hard copy format in July 2014, provides additional analyses and insights on these issues. It includes practical policy recommendations on the way forward and on strengthening the role of the United Nations in achieving global sustainable development.

In this regard, the Committee proposes five main principles to guide the reforms: common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities; subsidiarity; inclusiveness, transparency and accountability; coherence, and responsible sovereignty. The Policy Note illustrates how these principles could be applied in reforming global governance framework in the areas of international macroeconomic cooperation, environment, international trade, international tax matters, international migration and inequality. The Note also recommends a greater role for the Economic and Social Council in advancing these reforms and stronger accountability mechanisms to monitor implementation.

CDP is an expert body of ECOSOC composed of 24 members serving in their personal capacity.

For more information:

[Watch video on Committee for Development Policy](#)

[Committee for Development Policy \(CDP\)](#)

[Alternative Development Strategies for the Post-2015 Era](#)

[CDP Reports to the Economic and Social Council](#)

[CDP Policy Note: Global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era](#)

Towards more accountable and effective development cooperation



The Fourth Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) will be held on 10 – 11 July at UN headquarters in New York, as part of the High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

To prepare for this event, the DCF Germany Symposium on “Accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era” was held in Berlin, Germany on 20 -21 March, advancing the global dialogue on the future of development cooperation.

At the DCF Germany High-level Symposium, over 170 High-level participants, including 21 ministers, from national and local governments, civil society organizations and academia, parliaments, foundations and the private sector, and international organizations explored effectiveness and accountability of development cooperation in the design and implementation of a post-2015 development agenda in a series of interactive panel discussions and workshops, supported by the analytical work of UN DESA, including on global accountability and the findings of the 3rd global accountability survey.

Efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of development cooperation must continue

Effective development cooperation will be critical for the implementation of a post-2015 development agenda. To have an impact on the ground, it must originate from people’s needs and be supported by a continued openness to learn and share lessons, and shape a common language for development cooperation, to engage people and inspire action. Growing consensus on a number of issues addressed at the Symposium revealed readiness among the broad range of stakeholders to look anew at the fundamentals of development cooperation.

More needs to be done to ensure traditional ODA effectiveness and responsiveness of all actors to new challenges, and to provide a local enabling environment. The variety of approaches and lessons from different actors on how development cooperation can be delivered in an effective, coherent and accountable way and better respond to changing development needs are key inputs to the design and implementation of a post-2015 development agenda.

Global accountability for development cooperation is key to incentivize progress on all fronts

The promise of sustainable development results is the most powerful motivation for global accountability for development cooperation. To mobilize action and build positive pressure for change – to engage and to deliver on commitments – robust and inclusive monitoring and accountability activities for more and effective development cooperation must support the realization of the renewed, inter-governmentally agreed global partnership for development.

It is against this backdrop that delegates discussed the contours and features of a primary or basic global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation. Such a framework should engage all actors and enable them to contribute. It should link to existing national, regional and global efforts to track progress on development cooperation commitments – of a quantitative and a qualitative nature. The wealth of experience of the full breadth of development actors on how to deliver can provide critical lessons for its design.

The 2014 Development Cooperation Forum

The DCF Germany Symposium served as the final preparatory event for the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum. The 2014 DCF will provide an opportunity to advance the global dialogue on the future of development cooperation in the post-2015 agenda. It will also contribute to develop policy recommendations on a range of issues, among them: aid quantity and quality and the changing role of official development assistance (ODA), the engagement of the diversity of development cooperation actors and its implications at the country level, South-South cooperation, functioning of a renewed global partnership for development, mutual accountability and transparency, and global monitoring and accountability for development cooperation.

For more information:

[Development Cooperation Forum](#)

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

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

Open Working Group Co-Chairs determined to “get job done”



The Open Working Group on sustainable development goals completed its twelfth session from 16 to 20 June and will now get ready for the next set of meetings. First up is the informal informals on 9-11 July, followed by five days of its last session taking place on 14-18 July.

At the Co-Chairs morning meeting with Major Groups and other Stakeholders on the first day of the session, the Co-Chairs stressed their determination to “get the job done”. They noted that there is a lot of competition for ideas, which poses challenges. But Ambassador Macharia Kamau, one of the Co-Chairs, also said that “we are determined to make everyone as happy as we can.”

The Group completed its first consideration of the zero draft of the sustainable development goals prepared by the Co-Chairs, which contained 17 goals and 212 targets. Member States universally found the zero draft to be a good basis for their work.

The Co-Chairs said they would provide the Open Working Group with a “tweaked” zero draft, which would involve streamlining the targets to reach a manageable number. They expected to be able to share the document by Monday, 30 June.

There are only eight remaining working days to finalize the report and reach agreement on the goals, including 3 days of informal informals on 9-11 July and 5 days of the last sessions of the OWG on 14-18 July.

For more information:

[Thirteenth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Advancing cooperation on international tax matters



On 5 June, ECOSOC held a one-day meeting to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including its contribution to mobilizing domestic financial resources for development and the institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation.

A substantial number of 30 representatives from national tax authorities and ministries of finance, representing 27 countries^[1], including 19 developing countries, participated in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by 13 members of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (the Committee) and numerous representatives of international and regional organizations, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

During a short opening session, the Chair of the Committee briefed ECOSOC on the outcome of the 9th session of the Committee (Geneva, 21-25 October 2013). It was followed by a brief oral report by the Secretariat on further progress achieved in strengthening the work of the Committee and its cooperation with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional and sub-regional organizations, which focused on the follow-up activities of the Committee, as well as progress in developing and implementing the UN capacity development programme on international tax cooperation.

Subsequently, the meeting featured a panel discussion on “Current issues on the agenda of international organizations” with the participation of major international organizations active in the tax area, such as the IMF, OECD and the Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations (CIAT). The discussion revealed that there already was great progress in cooperation between various organizations involved in the area of international taxation and demonstrated that all the organizations were keen on further enhancing their mutual cooperation despite different memberships and mandates.

The afternoon session began with an interactive discussion on “Current issues in domestic resource mobilization for development: Base erosion and profit shifting”, which featured briefings on several initiatives undertaken at the international level to address these areas of concern, including the work of the UN Subcommittee on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Issues for Developing Countries, the OECD Project on BEPS, as well as the UN capacity development project on tax base protection for developing countries. It was followed by a presentation by a

representative of tax authority of Thailand on how base erosion and profit shifting issues affected her country.

The last panel discussion focused on “Extractive industries taxation issues for developing countries”. It included two presentations of country experiences and lessons learned, namely by Chile and Norway, followed by an overview of work undertaken in this area by the IMF, as well as the UN Subcommittee on Extractive Industries Taxation Issues.

The meeting served its main purpose of facilitating an inclusive and broad-based dialogue on international tax cooperation with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of national tax authorities. It succeeded in bringing to the forefront the key issues of concern to developing countries and discussing them in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.

[1] Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Senegal (2), Serbia, Spain, Thailand, Turkey (2), Turkmenistan, Uruguay, United States, Zambia (2), Zimbabwe.

For more information:

[Special Meeting of ECOSOC on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#)

Trends and Analysis

Placing youth and mental health in the spotlight



There are over 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 in the world today and over 280 million of them experience a mental health condition. To raise awareness on the importance of reducing stigma surrounding youth with mental health conditions, UN DESA has just kicked off a

campaign in the lead-up to the International Youth Day celebrated on 12 August.

Mental-health conditions have a significant impact on the development of youth and their social and economic integration, including employability. Youth with mental health conditions can often also experience stigma and discrimination, which in turn can lead to exclusion and/or discourage people from seeking help for fear of being negatively ‘labelled’.

Efforts are needed to overcome this stigma to ensure that young people with mental health conditions can lead full and healthy lives free of isolation and unnecessary shame, and that they can openly seek the services and support they need.



Under the slogan “Mental Health Matters”, International

Youth Day (IYD) on 12 August will be celebrated this year with a focus on youth and mental health. In the lead-up to the day, people from across the globe are encouraged to help raise awareness on this topic by joining efforts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest using #MentalHealthMatters and #UN4Youth.

The online audience is invited to submit artwork, illustrations, videos, photos and/or stories about the positive impact that speaking out about mental health issues has had on their life or the life of a young person they may know. People are also encouraged to spread the word about the campaign and International Youth Day, and to also organize events of their own to celebrate. For this purpose, a toolkit has been developed to serve as a source of inspiration for possible actions and events (see the link provided under “related information”).

By joining the campaign, people will actively be helping in spreading the word about the importance of reducing stigma surrounding youth and mental health conditions. Selected written, photo, video and artwork entries will also be chosen to be included in UN DESA’s publication ‘Social Inclusion of Youth with Mental Health Conditions,’ which will be launched on the International Youth Day, in the poster design, as well as showcased as part of the IYD event on 12 August at UN Headquarters.

This event will bring together young people, experts, the UN and Members States to discuss and raise awareness on the issue of youth and mental health conditions. A panel discussion, along with performances by young artists, will explore this issue in a variety of interactive and informative ways.

For more information:

[International Youth Day 2014](#)

[Join the campaign on Facebook](#)

[Join the campaign on Twitter](#)

[Join the campaign on Instagram](#)

[Join the campaign on Pinterest](#)

[International Youth Day #MentalHealthMatters toolkit](#)

A China Story II: A New Model of Urbanization



“A China Story II: A New Model of Urbanization” will take place on July 7, at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, organized by the China Energy Fund Committee (CEFC), a Chinese think-tank in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Entitled “A China Story II: New Pathways to Urbanization”, this forum will tell how the world’s largest developing country prepares itself for the new tide of urbanization, the considerations it has to weigh, and the good practices that it seeks to learn.

The story of modern China will comprise a series of presentations to drive home the reality that sustainable growth involves a delicate balancing act that takes into account multiple competing forces and needs. It will serve as a platform to depict the overall approach to sustainable development of China in the

past thirty years as well as the new administration's dedication on building an eco-civilization which is centered around economically viable, socially responsible, environmentally friendly, culturally inclusive and politically harmonious cities.

Above all, this forum represents the dedication and effort of this Chinese think-tank, the China Energy Fund Committee, to provide a novel foundation and a renewed perspective for all stakeholders to move forward with the preparations for a post-2015 UN development agenda that is responsive to both today's and tomorrow's global challenges, and therefore worthy of the aspirations of all countries and peoples for a better future.

For more information:

[A China Story II: A New Model of Urbanization](#)

Role of cooperatives in achieving sustainable development



To celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives this year, UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) in partnership with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) will organize a panel discussion on

"Cooperative enterprises achieve sustainable development for all" on 10 July.

Cooperative enterprises put social justice and equity at the heart of economic progress. As member-owned, member-run and member-serving businesses, cooperatives empower people to collectively realize their economic aspirations, while strengthening their social and human capital and developing their communities.

The 2014 commemoration of the International Day of Cooperatives will highlight the principles, values and operational realities of cooperatives that make them unique instruments for achieving sustainable development and showcase the importance of the business model to realizing people-centred, inclusive development, post-2015.

For more information:

[International Day of Cooperatives](#)

Economists respond to wide range of questions on world economy



Economists from the Global Economic Monitoring Unit of the Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD) held a Facebook chat on the world economy on 12 June following the release of its mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects.

The online community raised questions ranging from macroeconomic issues, such as quantitative easing and interest rate policy, to more specific regional and national economic issues.

Ingo Pitterle, Economic Affairs Officer monitoring East and South Asia, said, "We really enjoyed engaging with people from all over the world in the facebook chat. The questions covered a broad range of issues and showed us what kind of information people are looking for."

Over 180 Facebook followers participated in the one-hour chat. The unit is currently preparing its 2015 report which is due to be released in December. In the meantime, economic updates are available through the Monthly Briefing series.

For more information:

[Facebook chat on the world economy on 12 June 2014](#)
[World Economic Situation and Prospects Monthly Briefing](#)

ICTs as driver of development change



UN DESA's Division for Public Administration Development Management (DPADM) attended the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) +10 High Level Event in Geneva, Switzerland from 10 to

13 June, where a review of the progress made in implementing the WSIS outcomes was conducted.

Ms. Elia Armstrong, Chief of Development Management Branch (DMB), made a policy statement on the importance of ICTs as a driver of development change, citing its interlinkage into government processes and development programmes.

Achievements made over the last ten years were reviewed based on the WSIS reports submitted by countries, action line facilitators and other stakeholders. Participants exchanged information and experiences with the aim of identifying propriety areas for implementation within the action lines and creating synergies among stakeholders for more effective knowledge sharing and collaboration towards implementation of WSIS at the international, regional and national levels. The outcomes of the meeting are expected to contribute to harness international expertise and experience to support deliberations on post-2015 development agenda priorities and development challenges in the 21st century.

In addition, DPADM organized and facilitated meetings on the implementation of WSIS action lines C1 – The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development, C7 – ICT Applications: E-government and C11 – International and regional cooperation, for which UN DESA acts as lead facilitator and participated in a number of high-level events, substantive workshops and bilateral meetings, including in a UNESCO organized panel on the importance of Internet access and ICTs in the post-2015 development agenda.

For more information:

[WSIS+10 High-level event](#)

Capacity development

Producing statistics on time use



Workshop on the Measurement of Household Production for Satellite Accounts and the 36th Conference of the International Association for Time Use Research (IATUR) will take place in Turku, Finland on 29 July.

UN DESA's Statistics Division is extending fellowships to selected statisticians from National Statistical Offices in developing countries to participate in a workshop on the Measurement of Household Production for Satellite Accounts, organized by IATUR in collaboration with Statistics Finland.

The main objective of the workshop is to train statisticians on how to build a satellite account for household production (data needed, sources and methods for the compilation of accounts). Participants will also attend the 36th International Association for Time Use Research (IATUR) Conference, to be held after the workshop, from 30 July to 1 August.

The conference will serve as an important opportunity to share, review and discuss methods and tools among statisticians and researchers interested in theoretical and empirical areas related to measuring and producing statistics on time use.

For more information:

[IATUR 2014 conference](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

Launch of the 2014 Millennium Development Goals Report



The report will be launched in New York by the Secretary-General on 7 July and presents the yearly assessment of global and regional progress towards the MDGs. In addition to regular assessment of the latest progress, this year's report features a special section discussing the role of data in monitoring the progress of MDGs. The report is based on comprehensive official statistics compiled by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG indicators led

by UN DESA's Statistics Division.

- [For more information](#)

United Nations E-Government Survey 2014



E-government—digital interactions between governments and people—varies greatly among and within regions, but most countries are making progress on providing greater access, according to the 2014 UN E-Government Survey launched on 25 June. The findings show that the Republic of Korea tops the global e-government ranking, and that Europe remains first among regions. The report also shows that many countries are

expanding electronic participation, utilizing more mobile and social media tools, expanding usage and making more government data available online. However, challenges remain, such as lack of resources, digital inequalities and a lack of leadership for e-government.

- [For more information](#)

Statistical compilations

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



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

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In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly tables: Earnings in manufacturing, by sex; Total exports and imports by regions: quantum and unit value indices and terms of trade in US dollars.

- [For more information](#)

Outreach material

Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 6, Volume 2

The latest 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.

- [Read full issue](#)

Enable Newsletter

Prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, the June features input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society.

- [Read full issue](#)

Youth Flash Newsletter

Published by UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth, the June issue puts the spotlight on youth and disability. The newsletter is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

DESA NGO News

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

- [Read full issue](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 67

Published by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the June issue states that the world economic growth is expected to accelerate in 2014-2015, North American and European economies will experience a similar growth trajectory and developing economies will continue with relatively robust economic expansion.

- [To download](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings



Pingfan Hong was appointed Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD/DESA) effective on 1 July 2014. A Chinese national, Pingfan Hong joined the United Nations in 1989 and has since worked mostly in

the areas of economic research and policy analysis, particularly on global economic outlook, macroeconomic policies, and international policy coordination.

Since April 2013, Mr. Hong has been serving dual roles as Acting Director of DPAD and Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Unit. He is the lead author and coordinator of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) and has also worked extensively with Project LINK in global modelling and forecasting.

Mr. Hong worked as an Officer in the State Planning Commission of China and as a Research Fellow and Assistant to Professor Lawrence Klein at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, a Dual Master in Computer Sciences and Management Sciences from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and a Bachelor in Engineering from Wu Xi Institute of Light Industrial Technology. He is the World Bank McNamara Fellow of 1985.



Stefan Schweinfest was appointed Director of the Statistics Division (STAT/DESA) effective on 1 July 2014. Mr. Schweinfest studied Mathematical Economics at the Universities of Wuerzburg and Bonn, Germany. He holds a Diplome D'Etudes Approfondies from the University of Paris (Sorbonne/Pantheon) in these fields. During

his M.Phil studies at the London School of Economics, he also held a position as teaching assistant at the LSE.

Mr. Schweinfest joined UN DESA's Statistics Division in 1989 and worked in various areas, such as national and environmental accounting, statistical capacity building programmes, and indicator frameworks. He was also responsible for external relationships of the Division, both with member countries as well as with international partner organizations. In this context, he has been the

substantive Secretary of the United Nations Statistical Commission since 2002. He was also closely involved since the beginning in the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) programme and acted as the key liaison between the Division and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) during the negotiations of the UN resolution that formally launched UNGGIM in 2011.

In his private time Stefan likes to sing and has performed numerous concerts with his chorus in Carnegie Hall. He is also a passionate marathon runner and loves to hit the road all over the world.

The following staff members were also promoted in June:

Dominika Halka, Chief of Unit, Economic Affairs, Financing for Development Office

Oliver Schwank, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office

Amson Sibanda, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Goings

The following staff member retired in June:

Andrei Abramov, Chief of Branch, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Calendar

July

Second meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

30 Jun - 9 Jul, New York

ECOSOC High-level segment

7-11 July, New York

“A China Story II: A New Model of Urbanization”

7 July, New York

Launch of the 2014 Millennium Development Goals Report

7 July

International Day of Cooperatives this year

10 July

Launch of the World Urbanization Prospects

10 July

Fourth Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

10 -11 July, New York

Thirteenth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

14-18 July, New York

Google+ Hangout – Samoa 2014: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Islands

24 July

Workshop on the Measurement of Household Production for Satellite Accounts and the 36th Conference of the International Association for Time Use Research (IATUR)

29 July, Finland

DESA News is an insider's look at the United Nations in the area of economic and social development policy. The newsletter is produced by the Communications and Information Management Service of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with DESA Divisions. DESA News is issued every month. Please click [here](#) to send inquiries.