New UN websites & publications

UN in General

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf
The meeting of the High-Level Political Forum will be held in New York from 10 to 19 June 2017. The theme will be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 will be reviewed in depth this year and Goal 17 will be considered each year.

Ocean Conference – Outcome Documents

- A/CONF.230/11 - Draft call for action
  English, French & Spanish: http://undocs.org/A/CONF.230/11
- A/CONF.230/L.1 - Our ocean, our future: call for action
  English, French & Spanish: http://undocs.org/A/CONF.230/L.1

The Ocean Conference ended on 9 June 2017 with the adoption by consensus of a 14-point Call for Action where the participating Heads of State and Government and senior representatives “affirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.”
On 28 June 2017, a High-Level Event on Education will be convened in partnership with key SDG 4 stakeholders to drive a new push for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Basic Facts about the United Nations: 42nd edition
https://un4.me/2sXjk4v

This comprehensive handbook designed for the general public explains the structure of the United Nations, how the Organization works, the main issues it addresses and its importance for people everywhere. In addition to setting out the various roles played by principle UN organs and related organizations, Basic Facts about the United Nations documents the Organization's contributions to international peace and security, economic and social development, human rights, humanitarian action, international law and decolonization. Appendices contain current data on UN membership and peacekeeping operations, as well as contact information for UN information centres, services and offices. This latest edition, published in 2017, has been revised to take account of significant developments in the world and the Organization itself since 2014.
A new report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) showcases ten projects that are transforming the course of development in the Asia-Pacific region. The report describes large-scale projects in ten countries in the region – Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste – that have demonstrably accelerated progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In response to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 71/228, the present report provides the requested action plan for the Secretariat, aimed at integrating sustainable development practices into its operations and facilities management. The report summarizes the scope and structure of the plan, the roles and responsibilities of its stakeholders and the sequence of actions and milestones necessary for its implementation. The proposed action plan involves implementing environmental management systems with the goal, to be achieved as soon as possible, or by 2020, if practicable, of creating a Secretariat that does not, through its operations or facilities management, have a negative impact on the climate.

Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries (UNICEF Innocenti)

English, French, Spanish & Italian: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/890/
World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision
2017 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), only four companies in the
Uber, Instagram and Facebook – witnessed “dramatic” growth over the past few years, more
Report in English, Overview in English & Spanish, Press Releases in English, French &
substantially less likely than men to participate in the labour market, and once in the job market,
example, global tax revenue could increase by US$ 1.5 trillion, most of it in emerging (US$ 990
they are less likely than men to find a job and the quality of employment they do find remains a
forecast to remain unchanged in 2018. In 2014, G20 leaders made a commitment to reduce the
in participation rates between men and women exceed 50 percentage points.
over 49 per cent – is nearly 27 percentage points lower than the rate for men (table 1), and is
Country briefs for EU-28, France, Germany, Italy and Spain:
Report in English:
World Employment and Social Outlook Trends for Women 2017 (ILO)
investment to almost every low- and middle-income country.
will be involved in either sending or receiving more than US$450 billion in remittances.
together, these individual remittances account for more than three times the combined Official
countries, according to a new report released by the International Fund for Agricultural
Migration flows and the remittances that migrants send home are having large-scale impacts on
unequal attitudes dominate, a significant minority support some forms of equality between men
and women, especially if they saw their fathers doing the same. A groundbreaking multi-country
study in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has surveyed 10,000 men aged 18 to
59 years, in Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon and Palestine, about their attitudes on gender equality
study asked, for example, what does it mean to be a man in the Middle East and North Africa
Report in English, Executive Summary in Arabic, English & French:
Understanding Masculinities: Results from The International Men and Gender Equality
additions, followed by wind power at 34 per cent and hydropower at 15.5 per cent, according to
The world is now adding more green energy capacity each year than it adds in new capacity
Renews 2017 Global Status Report
UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) show persistently high out-of-school rates in many
generations to come. The paper is being released ahead of the UN High Level Political
Reducing global poverty through universal primary and secondary education (UNESCO)
its forty-eighth session, held in March 2017 (see
Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which was adopted by the Statistical Commission at
The present report, mandated by the General Assembly in paragraph 83 of its resolution
Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2017/66, 11 May 2017)
fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar. The Council has been interested in this project since
two regional commissions to follow the development of the project studies and keep it informed
for Africa on the activities carried out within the framework of the project for a Europe-Africa
Project for a Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar (E/2017/21, 15 May
2017)
domestic product and employment. Notwithstanding the many efforts at national and
irrespective of their income level, are prepared to effectively prevent and mitigate any disaster
disruptions throughout the value chains. Such disasters may slow overall economic growth,
disasters often destroy critical agricultural assets and infrastructure, disrupting production
its wide interactions with the environment and direct reliance on natural resources for
damage to livelihoods and economies (local, national), are increasing significantly. Natural
the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, builds on a multi-year effort by a
participation in the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with
development, submitted by major groups and other stakeholders (E/HLPF/2017/2, 8 May
2017)
one in eight faces food insecurity, according to a new report released on 15 June 2017 by the
high-income countries in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identified as
most important for child well-being. It ranks countries based on their performance and details
E/2017/24
http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7279e.pdf
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf
http://undocs.org/E/HLPF/2017/2
The world population is now nearly 7.6 billion, up from 7.4 billion in 2015, spurred by the relatively high levels of fertility in developing countries – despite an overall drop in the number of children people have around the globe – the United Nations reported on 21 June 2017. The concentration of global population growth is in the poorest countries, according to World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, presenting a challenge as the international community seeks to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which seeks to end poverty and preserve the planet. “With roughly 83 million people being added to the world’s population every year, the upward trend in population size is expected to continue, even assuming that fertility levels will continue to decline,” said the report’s authors at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. At this rate, the world population is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and surpass 11.2 billion in 2100.

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the protection of civilians and medical care in armed conflict

The Security Council held an open debate on 25 May 2017 on the topic “Protection of civilians and medical care in armed conflict”. In order to help guide the debate, the Security Council President for May, Uruguay, has prepared this concept note.

‘No Excuse’ pocket card

The ‘No Excuse’ cards include a concise and portable statement of the UN rules and prohibitions related to sexual exploitation and abuse, and contact details - to be provided by the missions and duty stations - for reporting allegations. These are to be distributed to all deployed UN personnel, affiliated staff, implementing partners and contractors.


Development of Africa

https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/899/

This new UNICEF Innocenti Working Paper summarizes evidence on six common assumptions about cash transfer programmes in Africa. The paper uses data from eight in-depth evaluations conducted on large government-run unconditional cash transfer projects in sub-Saharan Africa, under the Transfer Project. The arguments supporting unconditional cash transfer programming for poor households in developing countries are numerous. Evidence shows cash transfers are effective in reducing poverty and also have widespread social and economic benefits – often larger than traditional forms of development assistance. An increasing body of evidence also shows that cash transfers may provide protection during humanitarian crises, as reflected in the high-level commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit, and the Grand Bargain.

Human Rights


Mass killings and other serious human rights violations have been documented in an extensive UN mapping report covering the multiple conflicts in the Central African Republic between 2003 and 2015. Many of the violations may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, the mapping report states, as it sets out a strategy to fight pervasive impunity in the country.

The mapping report by the UN Human Rights Office and the UN Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) has documented patterns of serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by successive Government forces and various local and foreign armed groups, as well as international and foreign defence forces. The report, mandated by the UN Security Council, documents in detail 620 incidents, including horrific accounts of entire villages being burnt to the ground in reprisal attacks; multiple accounts of gang rapes of women and girls as young as five; extra-judicial killings; deaths following severe torture or ill-treatment in detention centres; serious violence against people on the basis of their religion, ethnicity or perceived support for armed groups; the recruitment of thousands of children by armed groups; and attacks on both humanitarian actors and peacekeepers, among other serious violations. Hundreds of thousands of Central Africans have been internally displaced or forced to flee in terrifying circumstances through the bush into neighbouring countries.
Counting Pennies: A review of official development assistance to end violence against children (UNICEF/UNSRSGVAC)

https://un4.me/2rgTpnc

This new report shows only a small fraction of official development assistance goes toward ending violence against children. For the first time, a review of official development assistance (ODA) to end violence against children has been done. The report Counting Pennies found that in 2015, total ODA spending was $174 billion and of that, less than 0.6 per cent was allocated to ending violence against children. Violence compromises children’s development, health and education and has a high cost for society – up to US$7 trillion a year, worldwide. Because of this, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development now includes a distinct global target to end all forms of violence against children (target 16.2). Ending the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children is also mainstreamed across other parts of this international development agenda. Civil society partners that collaborated on this report were World Vision International, SOS Children’s Villages, Save the Children and ChildFund Alliance. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children and UNICEF also contributed to the research.


Updated guidelines for investigating unlawful killings around the world have been launched in Geneva on 24 May 2017 by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The guidelines - known as the Minnesota Protocol - make clear that investigations must be prompt, effective and thorough, as well as independent, impartial and transparent. The Protocol is aimed at police officers, medical practitioners, lawyers, judicial officers, NGOs and others involved in investigations into killings which may be unlawful. It applies primarily to investigations undertaken during times of peace, but also covers killings during conflict. The original Minnesota Protocol, also known as the UN manual on the effective prevention and investigation of extra-legal arbitrary and summary executions, was launched by the UN in 1991.
Parties to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine have repeatedly failed to implement ceasefire agreements, allowing hostilities to escalate and claim more lives as the conflict moved into its fourth year, a UN report published today says. The report covers the period from 16 February to 15 May 2017, during which the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) recorded 36 conflict-related civilian deaths and 157 injuries – a 48 per cent increase on the previous reporting period from 16 November 2016 to 15 February 2017.

Humanitarian Affairs

FAO Guidance Note: Child labour in agriculture in protracted crises, fragile and humanitarian contexts
https://un4.me/2snwQR4
A new guide by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) urges child labour concerns be integrated in agriculture, food security and nutrition programs during crises and disasters, and was presented today to mark World Day Against Child Labour. Around the world, 100 million children and young people are affected by disaster each year and 230 million live in areas affected by armed conflict. As a crisis unfolds, a family's capacity to provide adequate food, education and protection for their children is undermined which can result in an increase in both the prevalence and severity of child labour, including the worst forms such as child debt bondage.

Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2016
http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/
General Assembly approves creation of new UN Counter-Terrorism Office

- UN News Centre Story
- Report by the Secretary-General
  English, French & Spanish: http://undocs.org/A/71/858
- General Assembly Press Release
- Resolution A/RES/71/291
- Secretary-General appoints Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov of Russian Federation Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (Press release SG/A/1741-BIO/4976, 21 June 2017)
NEW INFORMATION MATERIAL

Single copies of the following titles can be ordered via e-mail: info@unric.org

2017 UN Cards.
French: https://www.un.org/fr/sections/about-un/2017-un-card/
Spanish: https://www.un.org/es/sections/about-un/2017-un-card/


NEW TITLES
added to the library collection in June

General Information and Reference

UN Chronicle, Volume LIV, Number 1 & 2, 2017: “Our ocean, our world”. 75 p.
Online version: https://unchronicle.un.org/issue/our-ocean-our-world
II. Trade, Finance and Commerce


World Health Organization (WHO)