New UN websites & publications

UN in General

High-Level Political Forum 2016 (11-20 July)
The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the theme, “Ensuring that no one is left behind,” takes place from 11-20 July at UN Headquarters in New York. The HLPF is the United Nations central platform for guiding progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015. The session will include voluntary reviews of 22 countries and thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, supported by reviews by the ECOSOC functional commissions and other inter-governmental bodies and forums.

General Assembly High-level Thematic Debate on Human Rights (12-13 July)
http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/human-rights
In light of the 50th anniversary of the international human rights covenants and the process this year of selecting and appointing the next UN Secretary-General, this high-level thematic debate will be an opportunity to identify what actions are needed to improve the promotion and protection of human rights globally, and highlight how action to realize human rights can contribute to progress on peace and security and sustainable development. The debate, convened by the President of the General Assembly, will focus in particular on combatting discrimination and inequalities; strengthening governance, the rule of law and access to justice; and enabling active participation in society.
The 2016 High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS


At this meeting Member States adopted a new political declaration that includes a set of time-bound targets to fast-track the pace of progress towards combating the worldwide scourge of HIV and AIDS over the next five years and end the epidemic as a public health threat by 2030:


UN Research Guides – updated version
http://un4.me/1QrSMzw

We have updated our special page that serves as a one-stop access to all research guides from UN System Libraries by adding several UN Pulse postings from the DHL Library.

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Research Guide:
UN and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) - A Quick Guide

Spanish: http://research.un.org/es/ngo

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Research Guide:
World Humanitarian Summit - Quick Guide
http://research.un.org/en/whs

United Nations Library at Geneva Research Guide:
Fridtjof Nansen, First High Commissioner for Refugees - Selected Resources
http://libraryresources.unog.ch/nansen

20 years ago, the foundation was laid for the United Nations in Bonn to become a UN centre for sustainable development. To mark the occasion, the UN in Bonn has launched a new website which captures the full spectrum of the work of the 18 agencies represented in the city and represents its first dynamic ‘shop window’ to the work and achievements of this flourishing centre for global sustainability.

English & German: http://unbonn.org
Peace and Security

Report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2016/501, 31 May 2016)


“In my initial report (S/2016/92), issued on 29 January 2016, I addressed the areas identified by the Council and set out recommendations for strengthening the capacities of Member States to mitigate the threat posed by ISIL, as well as the ways in which the United Nations could support those efforts.

The present report was prepared with the input of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) regarding the gravity of the threat posed by ISIL and its geographical evolution, and in close collaboration with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and other relevant United Nations actors and international organizations. It provides an update on the gravity of the threat posed by ISIL and associated groups and entities, as well as on ISIL funding sources. It highlights the efforts and progress of Member States in implementing related counter-terrorism measures in a number of thematic areas, and the risks posed by foreign terrorist fighters who return to their home States or travel to other States. It also considers the presence and influence of ISIL outside Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, notably in Afghanistan, Libya and South-East Asia; the use of information and communications technology (ICT) by ISIL; the issue of conflict-related sexual violence; and the range of technical assistance and capacity-building efforts undertaken by the United Nations and its partners.”

See also “Politically Speaking”: https://tmblr.co/ZaTV2m27cFIu

Infographic: Developments in Central Africa since November 2015 (UNDPA)
https://tmblr.co/ZaTV2m27y-IXg
**Security Council High-level open debate on protecting civilians in the context of peacekeeping operations**
The Security Council held a high-level open debate on 10 June on the theme “Sexual violence in conflict situations”. The Security Council President for June, France, has prepared this concept note.

**Security Council open debate on the theme “Conflict-related sexual violence: responding to human trafficking in situations of conflict-related sexual violence”**
The Security Council held an open debate on 2 June on the theme “Sexual violence in conflict situations”, with a particular emphasis on the link between sexual violence and human trafficking. The Security Council President for June, France, has prepared this concept note.


**Follow-up to Security Council open debates:**
  Summary: Transmits compilation of specific commitments by Member States made during the open debate in Oct. 2015 on women and peace and security and the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (13 and 14 Oct. 2015) (Concept note: **S/2015/749**)
  Summary: Transmits non-paper providing a summary of some of the key themes and proposals raised by participants during the Security Council open debate on the peace and security challenges facing small island developing States on 30 July 2015 (Concept note: **S/2015/543**).

Economic & Social Development

**Actions on Air Quality (UNEP)**
http://www.unep.org/transport/airquality/
Noting that from 2008 to 2013, air pollution levels in urban areas increased by eight per cent, a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) spotlights the need to support introduction of more renewable energies and clean cook stoves, some of the vital actions aimed at combating this public health emergency. Air pollution kills seven million people each year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), with more than 80 per cent of people living in urban areas exposed to air quality levels that exceed WHO limits. “Actions on Air Quality”, released on 24 May 2016 at the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in Nairobi, Kenya, found that there is a growing momentum for change, such as improved access to cleaner cooking fuels and stoves, renewables, fuel sulphur content and public transport.

**African Economic Outlook 2016**
*French: [http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/fr/accueil](http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/fr/accueil)*
With two-thirds of Africans expected to live in cities by 2050, how Africa urbanizes will be critical to the continent’s future growth and development, a new report presented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has found. According to the African Economic Outlook 2016, released on 24 May 2016 at the African Development Bank Group’s annual meetings, Africa remained the second-fastest growing economic region in 2015, after East Asia. The continent’s average growth is expected to be 3.7 per cent in 2016 and 4.5 per cent in 2017, provided the world economy strengthens and commodity prices gradually recover.

**Food Systems and Natural Resources (UNEP)**
*Report & Summary: [https://un4.me/1tgf5QP](https://un4.me/1tgf5QP)*
A major overhaul of the global food system is urgently needed if the world is to combat hunger, use natural resources more efficiently and stem environmental damage, the International Resource Panel (IRP) says. In its latest report, the IRP – a consortium of 34 internationally renowned scientists, over 30 national governments and other groups hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – calls for a switch to a “resource-smart” food system that changes the way food is grown, harvested, processed, traded, transported, stored, sold and consumed.

**Global AIDS Update 2016**
An estimated 17 million people were accessing life-saving antiretroviral medicines at the end of 2015, with an additional 2 million people gaining access over a 12-month period. The announcement, made in a new UNAIDS report released on 31 May 2016, comes as world leaders prepare to gather for the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS, to take place in New York, United States of America, from 8 to 10 June 2016. The extraordinary scale-up of antiretroviral treatment since 2010 by many of the world’s most affected countries has reduced AIDS-related deaths from 1.5 million in 2010 (1.3 million–1.7 million) to 1.1 million [940 000–1.3 million] in 2015. As more countries adopt new guidelines from the World Health Organization to treat everyone diagnosed with HIV immediately, public health benefits are being realized for individuals and for wider society.
On the Fast-Track to an AIDS-free generation: The incredible journey of the Global Plan towards the elimination of new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive (UNAIDS)
UNAIDS and the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) announced today that there has been a 60% decline in new HIV infections among children since 2009 in the 21 countries in sub-Saharan Africa that have been most affected by the epidemic. New HIV infections among children in the 21 countries dropped from 270 000 [230 000–330 000] in 2009 to 110 000 [78 000–150 000] in 2015. Equally impressive are gains made in bridging the treatment gap among children. In 2005, less than one in 10 children had access to antiretroviral treatment—this gap has now been reduced to one in two. In the past five years alone, treatment scale-up for children grew twofold. The impact is that AIDS-related deaths among children were reduced by 44%.

Pulses, nutritious seeds for a sustainable future (FAO)
English: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5528e.pdf
Lovers of peas, pinto beans, lentils and their leguminous cousins can now boost their appetites and cooking skills thanks to a colourful new book featuring recipes from international top chefs passionate about one of the world’s most versatile super foods: pulses. Launched on 26 May 2016 by FAO, it takes readers on a 190-page journey through kitchens and cultures across the world, delving into cooking pots and local histories to explore the indigenous roots, contemporary benefits and timeless flavours of dried bean cuisine. In addition to providing an overview of pulses and the ways they benefit nutrition, health, biodiversity and food security, the book explains step-by-step what to look for when buying them, how to grow them at home, and how to cook them. It follows ten internationally acclaimed chefs on their daily trip to the market and joins them back to their kitchens as they prepare three easy, pulse-based dishes and share their best kept cooking secrets. And the book doesn’t just cater to readers’ taste buds – it’s also packed with information, graphics and factoids on pulses: their diversity, where they’re grown and which countries grow and trade them, and their nutritional characteristics.

World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and Development – Emerging Futures (UN Habitat)
http://wcr.unhabitat.org/main-report/
The analysis of urban development of the past twenty years presented in this maiden edition of the World Cities Report shows, with compelling evidence, that there are new forms of collaboration and cooperation, planning, governance, finance and learning that can sustain positive change. The Report unequivocally demonstrates that the current urbanization model is unsustainable in many respects. It conveys a clear message that the pattern of urbanization needs to change in order to better respond to the challenges of our time, to address issues such as inequality, climate change, informality, insecurity, and the unsustainable forms of urban expansion.
World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate
(UNESCO / UNEP)
This report provides an overview of the increasing vulnerability of World Heritage sites to climate change impacts and the potential implications for and of global tourism. It also examines the close relationship between World Heritage and tourism, and how climate change is likely to exacerbate problems caused by unplanned tourism development and uncontrolled or poorly managed visitor access, as well as other threats and stresses. Tourism can also play a positive role in helping to secure the future of many World Heritage sites in a changing climate.

World Wildlife Crime Report (UNODC)
The trafficking of wildlife is increasingly recognized as both a specialized area of organized crime and a significant threat to many plant and animal species. The World Wildlife Crime Report takes stock of the present wildlife crime situation with a focus on illicit trafficking of specific protected species of wild fauna and flora, and provides a broad assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at the global level. It includes a quantitative market assessment and a series of in-depth illicit trade case studies.

Human Rights

High Time to end violence against children
https://www.endviolenceagainstchildren.org/
High Time to end violence against children is an initiative of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG) in cooperation with many allies. The SRSG is a global independent advocate in favour of the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children. The SRSG acts as a bridge builder and a catalyst of actions in all regions, and across sectors and settings where violence against children may occur. She mobilizes action and political support to maintain momentum around this agenda and generates renewed concern at the harmful effects of violence on children; to promote behavioural and social change, and to achieve effective progress.
Partners in the High Time initiative include Governments, UN agencies and institutions, Human Rights mechanisms, independent institutions for children, regional organisations, local authorities, communities, professional networks, civil society organisations, academia, the corporate sector, as well as many other individuals committed to the prevention and elimination of violence against children.
Perils and Possibilities: Growing up online (UNICEF)


Eight out of ten 18-year-olds believe that young people are in danger of being sexually abused or taken advantage of online, and more than five out of 10 think friends participate in risky behaviours while using the Internet, a new report released on 7 June 2016 by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) shows. The report is based on an international opinion poll of more than 10,000 18-year-olds from 25 countries, and discusses young people’s perspectives on the risks they face growing up in an increasingly connected world.

To engage children and adolescents in ending violence online, UNICEF said it is launching the #ReplyforAll campaign, which is part of its global End Violence Against Children initiative. The #ReplyforAll campaign puts adolescents as messengers and advocates to keep them safe online. Children and adolescents will be asked to give their advice on the best ways to respond to online violence or risks and to raise awareness among friends through social media.

Report of the detailed findings of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea (A/HRC/32/CPR.1)


Crimes against humanity have been committed in a widespread and systematic manner in Eritrean detention facilities, military training camps and other locations across the country over the past 25 years, according to a new report by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea, released on 8 June 2016. Crimes of enslavement, imprisonment, enforced disappearances, torture, persecution, rape, murder and other inhumane acts have been committed as part of a campaign to instil fear in, deter opposition from and ultimately to control the Eritrean civilian population since Eritrean authorities took control of Eritrean territory in 1991, the report says.


A new report on Ukraine by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights shows that, after two years of conflict, the situation in eastern Ukraine remains volatile and continues to have a severe impact on human rights, especially for those living near the contact line and in territories controlled by armed groups. According to the report – released on 3 June 2016-some 9,371 people have been killed and 21,532 others injured in eastern Ukraine since the conflict began in mid-April 2014.

Terminology Guidelines for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ILO)


The Terminology Guidelines, dubbed the 'Luxembourg Guidelines' after their adoption in the small country earlier this year, offer guidance on how to navigate the complex lexicon of terms commonly used relating to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. They aim to build consensus on key concepts in order to strengthen data collection and cooperation across agencies, sectors and countries.

They came to destroy: ISIS Crimes Against the Yazidis (16 June 2016)


Further information: https://un4.me/28Iqsfp

The so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) is committing genocide against Yazidis, according to a report issued on 16 June 2016 by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. The report by the Commission of Inquiry also determined that ISIS’s abuse of Yazidis amounts to crimes against humanity and war crimes. As per the Commission’s mandate, the report focuses on violations committed against Yazidis inside Syria, where thousands of women and girls are still being held captive and abused, often as slaves. The Commission also examines how the terrorist group forcibly transferred Yazidis into Syria after launching its attacks on northern Iraq’s Sinjar region on 3 August 2014.
Collected information documents evidence of intent and criminal liability of ISIS’s military commanders, fighters, religious and ideological leaders, wherever they are located. The Commission’s findings are based on interviews with survivors, religious leaders, smugglers, activists, lawyers, medical personnel, and journalists, as well as extensive documentary material, which corroborate information gathered by the Commission.

Humanitarian Affairs

El Niño: Overview of Impact, Projected Humanitarian Needs and Response as of 02 June 2016 (OCHA)
https://un4.me/1XdPXGI
The humanitarian impact of the 2015-2016 El Niño remains deeply alarming, now affecting over 60 million people. Central America, East Africa (particularly Ethiopia), the Pacific and Southern Africa remain the most affected regions. The El Niño phenomenon is now in decline, but projections indicate the situation will worsen throughout at least the end of the year, with food insecurity caused primarily by drought not likely to peak before December. Therefore, the humanitarian impacts will last well into 2017. El Niño has affected food security and agricultural production, with cascading effects on livelihoods, health, water, sanitation, education and other sectors. This is due to flooding, disease outbreaks and malnutrition, disruption of health and education services, and overall increased mortality.

Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015 (UNHCR)
https://un4.me/28JiBt0
Wars and persecution have driven more people from their homes than at any time since UNHCR records began, according to a new report released on 20 June 2016 by the UN Refugee Agency. The report noted that on average 24 people were forced to flee each minute in 2015, four times more than a decade earlier, when six people fled every 60 seconds. The detailed study, which tracks forced displacement worldwide based on data from governments, partner agencies and UNHCR’s own reporting, found a total 65.3 million people were displaced at the end of 2015, compared to 59.5 million just 12 months earlier.

Out of School Children in Ukraine: A Study on the Scope and Dimensions of the Problem with Recommendations for Action
https://un4.me/22XQCvS
This report outlines the results of the survey “Out of School Children in Ukraine - A Study on the Scope and Dimensions of the Problem with Recommendations for Action”, which was conducted in January 2016 by GfK Ukraine, with the support of the UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine. The necessity of this study was determined by the impact of internal migration from the nongovernment controlled areas (NGCA) to other regions of Ukraine, on the education system, as well as by the lack of complex data on IDP access to school in the areas of settlement. Analysis of the situation was conducted through desk research of the legislative framework and available statistics, as well as qualitative studies on access to education by IDPs.
With a multitude of conflicts and crises causing record displacement around the world, resettlement has become an increasingly vital part of the UN Refugee Agency’s efforts to find solutions and advocate for fairer responsibility-sharing for refugees, a UNHCR report released today found. The report was released at an annual meeting in Geneva on 13 June 2016. It says that more than one million refugees were submitted by UNHCR to over 30 resettlement countries in the past decade, the number of people in need of resettlement far surpasses the opportunities for placement in a third country. The report says that despite increased resettlement quotas from some countries, expansion in global resettlement capacity, and increases in submissions, the projected number of people in need of resettlement in 2017 will pass 1.19 million.

The report covers the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 and draws on information received from a number of United Nations entities. It focuses on: the right of return of all refugees and internally displaced persons and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity; (b) the prohibition of forced demographic changes; (c) humanitarian access; (d) the importance of preserving the property rights of refugees and internally displaced persons; and (e) the development of a timetable to ensure the prompt voluntary return of all refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes.

WHO/PAHO and partners have set out their strategic response to Zika which will place a greater focus on preventing and managing medical complications caused by Zika virus infection. To date, US$121.9 million are necessary to effectively implement the revised plan. It includes a greater focus on preventing and managing medical complications caused by Zika virus infection and expanding health systems’ capacities for that purpose. Risk communication targeting pregnant women, their partners, households and communities will be central to prevention efforts to ensure they have the information they need to protect themselves.
New information material

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

Online version: https://un4.me/1U3Dyzq

NEW TITLES
added to the library collection in June

II.E Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Environmental Performance Reviews: Georgia; Third Review.

Innovation Performance Review of Tajikistan.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Online version: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/5/en/

Online version: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/6/en/

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http://www.unric.org/en/unric-library-newsletter