New UN websites & publications

UN in General

UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)
Civil society: Propose questions for UN Secretary-General Candidates
http://www.unngls.world/

The President of the General Assembly (PGA) is organizing informal dialogues between UN Member States and SG candidates starting in April 2016. The Office of the President of the General Assembly (PGA) has requested UN-NGLS to facilitate a process with civil society to provide questions that can be asked to candidates during these dialogues.

For further information on the appointment process for the Secretary-General - UNRIC Library Backgrounder: http://www.unric.org/en/unric-library/30075

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Local language material
new page on UNRIC’s website
http://www.unric.org/sdgs
Are you looking for information on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in your language?
Then check this page for material in the following languages: Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Icelandic, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish.

Official Documents System (ODS) - new look and updated technology for ODS platform
https://ods.un.org
The Official Document System (ODS) is the repository of the United Nations parliamentary documents in six official UN languages. It includes documents of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiaries, as well as administrative issuances and other official content. Since the introduction of the platform in 1993, it has undergone several technology upgrades, including the launch of the ODS public site and direct access to ODS content via Web links by document symbols (i.e. http://undocs.org/A/69/517).
Last year an ODS improvement project was initiated and the new version was launched on Friday, 26 February 2016 and offers the following new features: accessibility on a wide range of mobile devices, quick search as well as advanced search through Unite Search, clearer presentation of search results (sorting option, document details, PDF and Word versions, etc.), ability to store typical searches and bookmarks after logging into ODS with Unite Mail (Webmail) credentials, and much more.

http://research.un.org/en/CSW60

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has created a resource guide for the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which takes place at UN Headquarters from 14 to 24 March 2016. The guide contains: Current information on CSW60: Women's Empowerment and its link to Sustainable Development, Links to Commission on the Status of Women resources, FAQs on women and gender, official UN documents on women and CSW historical documents, Conventions and international instruments related to gender, Databases and statistical resources, Selected books, reports and links to relevant websites.

**Peace and Security**

**Iran: The Lifting of a Sanctions Regime (UNDPA)**
https://dpa-ps.atavist.com/iran-the-lifting-of-a-sanctions-regime

**Security Council open debate on “Maintenance of international peace and security: prevention and resolution of conflicts in the Great Lakes region” (S/2016/223, 8 March 2016)**

The Security Council held an open debate on 21 March 2016 on the theme “Maintenance of international peace and security: prevention and resolution of conflicts in the Great Lakes region”. The Security Council President for March, Angola, has prepared this concept note.

**Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/729)**
http://undocs.org/A/70/720

With 99 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse uncovered by the United Nations in 2015 – 69 of these in countries where peacekeeping operations are deployed – the Organization presented on 4 March 2016 its latest report on special measures to protect people from these crimes. Last December, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon pledged to urgently review recommendations made by an independent panel which found that the UN did not act with the “speed, care or sensitivity required,” when it uncovered information about crimes committed against children by soldiers – not under UN command – sent to the Central African Republic (CAR) to protect civilians.

**United Nations Peacekeeping Operations – Fact Sheet: 29 February 2016**
(DPI/1634/Rev.178, March 2016)
Economic & Social Development

**Agenda for zero discrimination in health care (UNAIDS)**
http://un4.me/1W8e5XH
People around the world face barriers to accessing quality health care and enjoying the highest attainable standard of health. Why this occurs varies between countries and communities, but some barriers are present everywhere. These include the various forms of discrimination faced by people who are marginalized, stigmatized, criminalized and otherwise mistreated because of their gender, nationality, age, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, language, socioeconomic status, or HIV or other health status, or because of selling sex, using drugs and/or living in prison.

**Clinical care for survivors of Ebola virus disease: Interim guidance (WHO)**
Today, there are over 10 000 survivors of Ebola virus disease. A number of medical problems have been reported in survivors, including mental health issues. Ebola virus may persist in some body fluids, including semen. Ebola survivors need comprehensive support for the medical and psychosocial challenges they face and also to minimize the risk of continued Ebola virus transmission. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed this document to guide health services on how to provide quality care to survivors of Ebola virus disease.

**Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)**
This WHO collaborative cross-national study – released on 15 March 2016 - provides information about the health, well-being, social environment and health behaviour of 11-, 13- and 15-year-old boys and girls for over 30 years. This latest international report from the study presents findings from the 2013/2014 survey, which collected data from almost 220 000 young people in 42 countries in Europe and North America.

**International Narcotics Control Board Annual Report 2015**
This year's Report has a special focus on the health and welfare of mankind as the main objectives of the international drug control treaties, a timely topic in the run-up to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) in April 2016. It also deals with cannabis legislation and describes international and regional trends in drug abuse, drug-related crime and new psychoactive substances.
MDGs Gender Chart 2015 (United Nations Statistics Division, UN Women)
The final edition of the Gender Chart details how women were faring in global progress in 2015, as the MDGs wrap up and the Sustainable Development Goals begin to take their place. The 2015 Gender Chart, an addendum to the UN Secretary General’s 2015 Millennium Development Goals Report, tracks how gender equality is impacted across all the MDGs. By looking at the other goals from a gender perspective, the Gender Chart also emphasizes the inter-linkages between the goals and gender equality and women's empowerment, in making progress on development and in achieving the MDGs.

In light of a cautious emphasis given to public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a mechanism to finance infrastructure projects and highlighting the need for capacity building and knowledge sharing at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, this paper reviews the extant literature on the subject and identifies areas requiring better understanding and institutional innovation for ensuring value for money, minimizing contingent fiscal risk and improving accountability. An institutional capacity to create, manage and evaluate PPPs is essential to ensure that they become an effective instrument of delivery of important services, such as infrastructure. There is also a need for a common definition of PPPs and internationally accepted guidelines, including uniform accounting and reporting standards.

Social protection for domestic workers: Key policy trends and statistics (ILO)
60 million of the world’s 67 million domestic workers still do not have access to any kind of social security coverage, says a new ILO study published on 14 March 2016. This working paper: (i) provides an overview of the global situation of social security provisions for domestic workers in 163 countries; (ii) analyses trends, policies and gaps in terms of legal and effective social security coverage for domestic workers; (iii) describes and analyses the configuration of social security schemes for domestic workers, such as their institutional organization, financing and administration; (iv) informs on challenges to extending coverage; and (v) provides a compilation and description of international practices of social security schemes for the domestic work sector, including comparative information.

UNESCO eAtlas of Gender Inequality in Education
English: http://www.tellmaps.com/uis/gender/
Almost 16 million girls between the ages six and 11 will never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to about eight million boys if current trends continue, according to a new report published on 2 March 2016 from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS). In the run-up to International Women’s Day on 8 March, the eAtlas shows that girls are still the first to be denied the right to education despite all the efforts and progress made over the past 20 years.
Women at Work Trends 2016 (ILO)

Since the ILO’s founding in 1919, gender equality and non-discrimination have been pillars of its mission to promote social justice through the world of work. As the Organization approaches its second century, it has chosen to focus on women at work as one of its centenary initiatives. Women at Work: Trends 2016 is a key contribution to these efforts and seeks to further the central goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The report provides a picture of where women stand today in the world of work and how they have progressed over the past 20 years. It examines the global and regional labour market trend and gaps, including in labour force participation rates, employment-to-population rates and unemployment rates, as well as differences in the type and status in employment, hours spent in paid and unpaid work, sectoral segregation and gender gaps in wages and social protection. It also presents an in-depth analysis of the gender gaps in the quality of work and explores the key policy drivers for gender transformative change. The discussions and related recommendations focus on three main dimensions: sectoral and occupational segregation, the gender wage gap, and gaps in the policy framework for work and family integration.

Human Rights


A new report on South Sudan published on 11 March 2016 by the UN Human Rights Office describes “in searing detail” a multitude of horrendous human rights violations, including a Government-operated “scorched earth policy,” and deliberate targeting of civilians for killing, rape and pillage. Although all parties to the conflict have committed patterns of serious and systematic violence against civilians since fighting broke out in December 2013, the report says state actors bore the greatest responsibility during 2015, given the weakening of opposition forces. The scale of sexual violence is particularly shocking: in five months last year, from April to September 2015, the UN recorded more than 1,300 reports of rape in just one of South Sudan’s ten states, oil-rich Unity. Credible sources indicate groups allied to the Government are being allowed to rape women in lieu of wages but opposition groups and criminal gangs have also been preying on women and girls.

Investigation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Libya

A UN report published on 25 February has documented widespread violations and abuses committed in Libya since the beginning of 2014. The report recommends urgent measures to fight against impunity and to strengthen and reform the justice sector. “Despite the human rights situation in Libya, the country only sporadically makes the headlines. A multitude of actors – both State and non-State – are accused of very serious violations and abuses that may, in many cases, amount to war crimes,” said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein.
Homelessness is a fact of life in all countries of the world, regardless of the level of development of their economic or governance systems, and it has been spreading with impunity, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to housing, Leilani Farha, warned on 3 March 2016 during the presentation of her latest report to the UN Human Rights Council. “Widespread homelessness is evidence of the failure of States to protect and ensure the human rights of the most vulnerable populations,” Ms. Farha said noting that it is “one of the least examined consequences of persistent inequality, unfair distribution of land and property and poverty occurring on a global scale.”

In her report, the Special Rapporteur examines how homelessness is caused by States’ failures to respond both to individual circumstances and to a range of structural causes, abandoning responsibility for social protection and allowing unregulated real estate speculation and investment to exclude a growing number of people from any form of housing.

Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, 16 November 2015 to 15 February 2016 (OHCHR)
Despite a decrease in the number of civilian casualties in the east of Ukraine over the past few months, a new UN report released on 3 March 2016 shows that the conflict is severely impacting on the daily life of civilians, with a growing sense of despair and isolation affecting those living in the conflict zone, especially in the areas controlled by the armed groups. The latest in a series of reports on Ukraine by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which covers the period from 16 November 2015 to 15 February 2016, places particular focus on the daily struggle for survival by people living around the ‘contact line,’ which separates the self-proclaimed ‘Donetsk people’s republic’ and ‘Luhansk people’s republic’ from the rest of Ukraine.

Humanitarian Affairs

Crop Prospects and Food Situation (FAO)
Thirty-four countries, including 27 in Africa, are currently in need of external assistance for food due to drought, flooding and civil conflicts, according to a new United Nations report released on 9 March 2016. The figure has grown from 33 last December, after the addition of Swaziland, says the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in its Crop Prospects and Food Situation report. The report, produced by FAO’s Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), points out that drought associated with El Niño has “sharply reduced” 2016 crop production prospects in Southern Africa, while expectations for the harvest in Morocco and Algeria have been lowered due to dry conditions. Also in areas of Central America and the Caribbean, ongoing dry conditions linked to El Niño may affect sowings of the main season crops for the third consecutive year.
'Refugees' and 'Migrants' - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
http://www.unhcr.org/56e95c676.html
In this FAQ the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides answers to the following questions:

- Are the terms 'refugee' and 'migrant' interchangeable?
- What is unique about refugees?
- How are refugees protected under international law?
- Does the 1951 Convention need to be revisited?
- Can 'migrant' be used as a generic term to also cover refugees?
- Do all migrants really always 'choose' to migrate?
- Don't migrants also deserve protection?
- Are refugees 'forced migrants'?
- So what is the best way to refer to mixed groups of people on the move that include both refugees and migrants?
- What about refugees who leave one host country and enter another? Aren't they actually best described as 'migrants' if they travel onward from the first country they stayed in?

WHO Zika App now available!
The app gathers all of WHO's guidance for agencies and individuals involved in the response to Zika Virus Disease and its suspected complications such as microcephaly, and for health care workers such as doctors, nurses and community health workers. The English version of the app is now available both in Android and iOS versions. iOS version: https://itunes.apple.com/en/app/who-zika-app/id1090088404?mt=8
The app will soon be available in all the United Nations' official languages and Portuguese.

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

Sorry, nothing received this month.
NEW TITLES added to the library collection in March

II.D Trade, Finance and Commerce

Rethinking Development Strategies after the Financial Crisis, Volume II: Country Studies and International Comparisons.

II.E Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Exploring Alternative Outcomes.

Spectrum of Border Crossing Facilitation Activities.

Together with UNECE on the road to safety: Cutting road traffic deaths and injuries in half by 2020.

The United Nations Motorcycle Helmet Study: This publication is part of WP.29, “How it works and how to join it”, series.

III.T International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)

Forum de comercio internacional, número 3, 20115. 38 p.
“La función de las normas en el desarrollo”
Online version: http://www.forumdecomercio.org/tradeforumhome/

« Le rôle des normes dans le développement »
Online version: http://www.forumducommerce.org/tradeforumhome/

V International Law

XI Narcotic Drugs (including United Nations Office on Drug and Crime - UNODC)

Availability of Internationally Controlled Drugs: Ensuring Adequate Access for Medical and Scientific Purposes; Indispensable, adequately available and not unduly restricted.

Informe de la Junta Internacional de Fiscalización de Estupefacientes correspondiente a 2015.

Précurseurs et produits chimiques fréquemment utilisés dans la fabrication illicite de stupéfiants et de substances psychotropes: Rapport de l'Organe international de contrôle des stupéfiants pour 2015 sur l'application de l'article 12 de la Convention des Nations Unies contre le trafic illicite de stupéfiants et de substances psychotropes de 1988


Rapport de l’Organe international de contrôle des stupéfiants pour 2015.


World Health Organization (WHO)

Online version: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/3/en/
Back issues of this newsletter are available at the UNRIC Info Point & Library website: http://www.unric.org/en/unric-library-newsletter