



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council voted to impose more sanctions on Iran, targeting conventional arms and the finances of 40 Iranian companies. The vote is a culmination of months of debate over the international community stance on Iran's nuclear development program. Brazil and Turkey voted against the resolution, out of anger that the Security Council rejected attempts by the two countries to broker a revised nuclear deal with Iran.

CLIMATE CHANGE - A planned UN climate deal might adapt systems for monitoring trade or human rights as models to check up on poor nations' curbs on greenhouse gases, Mexico's climate chief told a news conference on the sidelines of talks among climate negotiators from 185 nations in Bonn, Germany. Meanwhile, the UN's top climate official said the world is set to fail to make deep enough cuts in greenhouse gases in the next decade to tackle global warming. Moreover, a UN climate finance group is studying many sources of cash to help poor nations cope with climate change, aware that rich nations' budgets are already under strain, Norway's prime minister said.

ENVIRONMENT - The European Commission will unveil new a biofuels policy Thursday, one aimed at securing a supply of low-carbon energy in line with the European Union's goal of generating 10% of the bloc's transportation fuels from renewable sources by 2020. Environmentalists criticized the EU over concerns production of biofuels was creating more carbon gas emissions than it was saving. The updated policy will create a certification standard for biodiesel and ethanol to help reduce the amount of fuel coming from ecologically delicate areas, including forests and peat lands.

ENVIRONMENT - Worries over the effects of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico dominated Tuesday's observance of UN-recognized World Oceans Day. Scientists say they fear the spill could have a lasting impact on food chains in the Gulf region. A group of almost 250 scientists from 35 countries issued a statement calling on world leaders to create marine reserves.

HUMAN RIGHTS - The global economic crisis cost tens of millions of jobs and helped spur violence against workers around the world in 2009, with murders of labor activists rising more than 30% compared with the previous year, according to a report from the International Confederation of Trade Unions. Both governments and private businesses were guilty of putting pressure on workers unions and infringing on workers rights, the report charges.

■AFRICA

CHAD - Health authorities in Chad are considering how to re-launch HIV testing on the islands of Lake Chad after they were forced to cut short their first attempt in April. The testing was offered without counselling or health education - and ended with rumours and confusion.

SOMALIA - Hundreds of thousands of Somalis denied international aid in al Shabaab-controlled parts of the country face rising death rates from severe malnutrition and disease, the UNWFP said.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Nowhere in the world are as many mothers dying from pregnancy and birth-related complications as in Badakhshan Province, northeastern Afghanistan, where maternal mortality figures are estimated at 6,000 per 100,000 live births, say agencies.

MYANMAR - Two years after Cyclone Nargis devastated the delta region, more than 100,000 families remain without adequate shelter due to a lack of funding and knowledge about land laws, says the UN-HABITAT country manager.

■MIDDLE EAST

OPT - Forty-eight trucks with humanitarian aid seized from the aid flotilla bound for Gaza on 1 June are stuck at the Kerem Shalom crossing and in Israeli Defense ministry warehouses.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BOLIVIA's lower house of Congress has approved a law that will allow indigenous communities to run their own justice systems.

WFWO's Communications Team