



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that a panel comprising top scientists from around the world will review the work of the UN climate-change panel in hopes of avoiding future blunders like the recent errors made by the panel - small mistakes that appear quite large in the politicized context of global climate-change policy. A consortium of scientists, InterAcademy Council, will name the members of the panel.

UNITED NATIONS - The negative fallout from climate change is having a devastatingly lopsided impact on women compared to men, from higher death rates during natural disasters to heavier household and care burdens.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Rich countries' emissions outsourced to developing world - Over one third of carbon emissions linked to the consumption of imported goods in many developed countries is actually released in the developing world, researchers claim. A study by scientists at the US-based Carnegie Institution for Science published on Monday revealed that over 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide are released every year in developing countries such as India and China during the manufacture of products bound for consumers in the United States, United Kingdom and Japan. Emission targets under the Kyoto protocol apply to the country where emissions are produced, leading to a deadlock over the responsibility for the carbon footprint of imported goods. China has refused to take on binding targets that include emissions associated with goods produced for export.

CLIMATE CHANGE - A master vault on the Arctic island Svalbard is now home to 500,000 seed varieties equal to a third of the world's crop seeds. The "doomsday" vault was created in 2008 as fail safe in case other smaller vaults around the globe are destroyed and is built to withstand climate change, war and natural disasters.

HEALTH - United Nations agencies and local partners are conducting a massive polio-vaccination campaign targeting 85 million children under 5 in 19 West and Central African countries. A 2008 outbreak that began in Nigeria has spread to neighboring countries, and the disease has re-emerged in areas previously declared polio-free.

## ■AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE - Flood situation "under control" - Rivers throughout central and northern Mozambique are swollen above flood alert level and thousands of people have been relocated to higher ground, but national disaster management authorities and aid agencies in Mozambique say "the situation is under control".

NIGER - More needed to avoid catastrophe - A severe food and malnutrition crisis is looming in Niger, according to aid agencies. More than 20,000 under-five children are being treated for malnutrition nationwide and at least another 200,000 are at risk of severe malnutrition, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

SOMALIA - Offering migrants an alternative to death by water - In an attempt to deal with a growing influx of migrants, authorities in Somalia's autonomous region of Puntland are adopting new measures to stop people from undertaking the hazardous journey to Yemen, officials said.

SOUTH AFRICA - More than 1,000 people blocked roads in the South African township of Soweto on Wednesday to demonstrate against poor living conditions.

TANZANIA - Changes in weather patterns have turned agriculture into a gamble with nature for Tanzanian farmers. Prolonged droughts and floods have made the lives of small-scale farmers, who don't have access to irrigation, extremely difficult. In Tanzania, where the economy is largely driven by agriculture, the largely poor, rural population has become even more vulnerable.

UGANDA - One doctor for 16,200 refugees - Inadequate healthcare is just one of many challenges facing the 16,200 refugees in this sprawling camp in western Uganda, which is served by a single doctor.

## ■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - The insurgents in Afghanistan have shown interest in negotiating with the UN and aid agencies on humanitarian access and aid distributions, according to a purported Taliban spokesman.

INDONESIA - Farming for alternative livelihoods - Young unemployed men are finding opportunities in a project that also aims to introduce sustainable farming methods to Indonesia's agricultural sector.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI's economy depends on the estimated US\$1.5 billion a year in remittances sent home by its million-strong diaspora. Dilip Ratha, lead economist at the World Bank said the figure could be even higher, accounting for perhaps half the national income.

PERU - Although the Peruvian government reported that it had suspended the exploration activities of the Afrodita mining company in the country's northern Amazon jungle region to avoid further protests by local indigenous people, officials took no actual steps to bring the firm's work to a halt.

WFWO's Communications Team