

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - More than one billion people worldwide live with disabilities, some 15 percent of the world's population. On Friday, the Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, wrapped up a three-day session at UN headquarters in New York.

FOOD prices continued to hover around record highs last month as the global supply remained taxed by high demand, grain-based biofuels and a corn harvest in the US that is lower than expected, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Effort by producers to increase yields of staple grains were being hampered by erratic weather patterns, including heat waves and floods.

DEVELOPMENT - Policymakers among the Group of Seven richest countries should be nimble in their coordinated efforts to undertake "bold action" to right the global economy, said Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund. The G7 is meeting in France, amid warnings by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development of an even deeper world economic slowdown.

AFRICA

KENYA - The Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya is changing from a temporary refuge for those fleeing Somalia's ongoing violence and famine into a permanent home for hundreds of thousands of people. United Nations officials are working to help build residential structures to replace tents as part of a bid to help refugees begin planning for the future.

SOMALIA - Attacks on food-aid distribution in Somalia are preventing the United Nations and other aid organizations from getting help to famine victims. Somali officials have criticized the international response to the crisis as ineffective with the deputy finance minister calling for a greater emphasis on increasing Somali capacity to manage crises.

UGANDA - Meteorological officials in Uganda are warning of tough times ahead for farmers and populations living in mountainous areas as flash flooding is set to continue.

ASIA

CHILDREN - Indian circuses have emerged as a major trafficking destination for Nepalese children. Aid groups are working to recover hundreds of children as young as five from the physical and sexual abuse that often characterizes the youngsters' time in India.

WFWO's Communications Team