



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - Under the new Cancun Agreements, endorsed at the end of the UN climate change talks in Mexico, countries have been asked to submit their views on the possible development of a climate and disaster risk insurance facility. The one to emulate would be the Caribbean Climate Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF).

ENVIRONMENT - A new study shows that bright lights, such as those from a city skyline, inhibit chemical reactions that, at night, help clean the air of pollutants emitted by factories and automobiles during the day. City lights can slow by 7% the cleansing of the nighttime skies.

HEALTH - A new machine that can confirm the presence of tuberculosis, as well as determine whether it is resistant to the most common TB drug, is being advocated by the UNWHO even though it is comparatively expensive and fragile, and requires electricity to operate. The device can cut diagnosis time to two hours from up to three months, and eliminates the need for lab technicians.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - A massive global push to fund and implement control measures such as insecticide-treated nets and residual indoor spraying could halt malaria deaths by 2015, the UNWHO says. Malaria continues to kill hundreds of thousands of people annually, the majority in Africa, but the number of deaths has dropped over 20% in the past decade.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

Asia & Pacific Region - Led by China and India, the Asia-Pacific region made a significant economic recovery this year, following recession in previous years, but weakening economies in developed countries could pose new challenges for the region in 2011, according to a report from the UN's commission for the region.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

COLOMBIA - Nearly 15,000 women and girls in Colombia were raped, and hundreds more forced into prostitution, by armed groups from 2001 and 2009, according to a new report. The country's armed forces also perpetrated some of the sexual violence, which the study shows targeted an average of five women a day.

HAITI - Efforts by the international community to improve life in Haiti following the devastating earthquake may have inadvertently contributed to a surge in housing prices. The country's wealthy elite tend to disproportionately benefit from the presence of foreign aid workers.

WFWO's Communications Team