



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - A human rights committee of the United Nations on Tuesday removed references to sexual orientation from a measure condemning extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions based on discrimination. Arab and African countries had sought to dilute the language of the recurring resolution, which in 2008 specifically referred to sexuality.

ENVIRONMENT - The United Arab Emirates, Australia and the U.S. are the world's largest greenhouse-gas emitters, while African countries contribute the least to global totals, according to an index compiled by Maplecroft. The rankings, released just ahead of the Cancun climate summit, are intended to provide investors with insight into countries that would be most vulnerable if climate talks were to produce penalties for carbon emissions.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - The effects of climate change have increased uncertainty about family farms in Africa being able to produce a minimum yield of vegetables. Especially in the Sahel region, the limited availability of water resources for irrigation and the effects of climate change increase this threat.

CHAD - Hundreds of thousands of Chadians uprooted by violence in the eastern part of the country tell aid workers they can't go home unless the government improves infrastructure and health services in their towns and villages.

SUDAN - The United Nations hopes to boost the number of peacekeepers in Sudan amid fears that Africa's largest country by area could be headed for a new civil war, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Working in one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, Bangladeshi aid groups have learned that well-intentioned disaster relief programmes without community participation do little to protect those communities in the long run.

INDIA faces drastic changes in rain cycles by 2030 due to climate change that will seriously affect the country's agricultural sector and freshwater supplies, Indian scientists warn in a report. The findings from the Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment predict the change will come as a result of a 3.8 degree Fahrenheit temperature increase - a level earlier studies projected would be reached in 2050.

INDONESIA - Almost 70,000 evacuees from volcanic eruptions on Mt Merapi on the Indonesian island of Java returned to their homes after the government declared some no-go areas safe again, but the emergency response phase of the disaster is still in place.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

COLOMBIA - Drug-fuelled violence in Colombia's cities is pushing growing numbers of people to move to different parts of town or to other urban centres, a trend that is largely invisible and unaccounted for in government figures, says the United Nations refugee agency.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - The Dominican Republic is tightening its borders after health authorities detected the country's first case of cholera linked to the current epidemic in neighboring Haiti.

MEXICO - Without financing, many Mexican farmers cannot improve their ageing irrigation systems, which are essential if Mexico is to withstand the effects of climate change and reduce its emissions of greenhouse-effect gases.

WFWO's Communications Team