

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE SUMMIT - Emerging economies China, South Africa and Brazil have indicated their openness to legally-binding carbon emission reduction targets from 2020 during the United Nations climate change summit in Durban, South Africa.

WATER - Efforts to establish water as an agenda item in its own right in climate change negotiations are gaining momentum in Durban, South Africa. Water experts say doing this will lead to a greater focus on developing policy, and attract more resources into the water sector through adaptation programmes.

FOOD SECURITY - South-South cooperation is a key element to tackle hunger and ensure food security, a top United Nations official said, calling on countries to strengthen their partnerships at the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo in Rome.

WOMEN - As negotiators from around the world gather in Durban, South Africa, to consider climate change battle plans, NGOs and development agencies are lobbying for the inclusion of language and provisions to protect women and children. By including words such as "nutritional security," supporters argue, world leaders can help empower women to affect real change on issues such as health, nutrition and sustainable development.

AFRICA

MDGs - Even though most countries in Africa probably won't reach all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, a decade of continent-wide growth in the spheres of the economy, politics and civil society indicates that countries will continue to make progress toward MDG targets. Citizen-state initiatives in Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal are highlighted.

HEALTH - African countries have made progress in combating polio, a disease that affects mainly children under five years of age and leads to irreversible paralysis.

NIGERIA - High maternal and infant mortality rates remain a sore point in Nigeria's health delivery system which professionals discuss with passion whenever they meet, such as during a recent ceremony marking Maternal and Child Health Week in Sokoto, always in the hope that the authorities will one day learn to provide the right solution.

TANZANIA - The installation of 13,301 improved biomass stoves in Tanzanian homes is reducing firewood consumption by half, resulting in savings valued at \$1.25 million while preserving woodlands and reducing the time women spend collecting firewood, according to a study by the UN Development Program.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CLIMATE CHANGE - High up in the Himalayas in Nepal is a glacial lake that has been growing in length by 60 metres a year, threatening to burst its banks as rising temperatures in the region cause the glacier that feeds it to melt more quickly.

PAKISTAN's efforts to combat polio are being hampered as a result of a faux-vaccination campaign used in the hunt to catch al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, the United Nations says. Many Pakistani families have refused to get their children vaccinated in target areas between July and September, specifically citing the earlier fake as the reason.

WFWO's Communications Team