

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

WOMEN must remain vocal about the need to protect women's rights as part of changes occurring in the Arab world in response to popular uprisings, Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi says. Reform movements have shaken the Arab world, prompting government changes and elections, but the changes have yet to result in codified gains for women.

CLIMATE - The world emitted 6% more tons of carbon dioxide into the air in 2010 than it did in 2009. The increase, a record rise, was due primarily to the use of fossil fuels, especially coal, the burning of which saw a nearly 8% rise in 2010.

## AFRICA

DEVELOPMENT - African heads of state have ambitious plans to create a free trade zone, encompassing 26 countries and more than 600 million people on the continent. But economic experts warn the project is a bold step that comes with a plethora of legal, administrative and political hurdles.

SOMALIA is at the heart of one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world today. Twenty years of conflict and waves of drought have uprooted a quarter of the country's 7.5 million people.

## ASIA

CAMBODIA - Around 1.3 million people have been affected by floods in Cambodia, which have been described as the worst in a decade. Extreme rainfall, rising sea levels and deforestation have all contributed to the flooding.

THAILAND - Food prices across Asia are expected to rise because of flood damage to the rice crop in Thailand, the world's biggest exporter of the grain. Contaminated waters were continuing to spread deeper into the country's capital, Bangkok, fostering diseases that are only likely to rise as the floodwaters eventually recede, leaving behind standing pools of water.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

FLOOD - Tens of thousands of families across Central America remain in need of humanitarian aid as a result of severe weather, the United Nations says. Heavy rains triggered massive flooding and landslides that have killed at least 100 people and affected 1.2 million.

HDR - According to the Human Development Report 2011 released by the United Nations this week, Latin America remains the region with the highest income inequality, even as the situation has improved in countries like Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico and Peru.

WFWO's Communications Team