



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - World leaders will stick to promises to slash global poverty by 2015 at a United Nations summit in New York next week, but budget cutbacks in rich nations will keep them from setting ambitious new goals. Ten years after more than 150 leaders signed off on the [UN Millennium Development Goals](#), their successors will gather on Sept. 20-22 to take stock of the targets, which aim to drastically reduce poverty and hunger worldwide by 2015. A new World Bank study shows that one of the major goals - halving global poverty by 2015 - is likely to be met.

UNITED NATIONS - The new UN humanitarian chief has warned that after the Asian tsunami, the Haiti earthquake and the Pakistan floods, the world must brace for a growing number of disasters that will need a new battle campaign. The new under secretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, called for new thinking on combating mass catastrophes as she prepared to make a major appeal for funds for Pakistan.

UNITED NATIONS - Children forced into refugee camps by conflict face serious challenges to their safety such as sexual assault and recruitment as soldiers, Radhika Coomaraswamy, the United Nations Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, told the UN Human Rights Council in a report. Ms. Coomaraswamy says that the development of uniform standards for camps no matter what entity is managing them and the provision of basic education facilities would help address some of the security concerns for children.

ENVIRONMENT - The decline of the ozone layer has slowed and should progress toward recovery by midcentury, though portions over the Arctic and Antarctic will take longer, a report from the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme says. Two hundred countries committed in 1987 to halt additional loss of the ozone, which protects earth from the sun, and support efforts to mitigate the greenhouse effect.

DEVELOPMENT - The first High-Level Meeting (HLM) of the Africa- EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) took place on 14-15 September 2010, in Vienna, Austria, to discuss energy access, energy security and renewable energy. The meeting was co-organized by the: African Union (AU) Commission; European Commission (EC); Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria; Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany; and Government of Mauritius. The HLM of the AEEP brought together over 300 participants, including ministers, ambassadors and other high-level decision-makers from 21 European and 23 African countries, and commissioners from the AU and the EU, as well as academics, business leaders and members of civil society from across Africa and Europe. The Main themes during the HLM included: the need to recognize energy as one of the keys to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the role of public and private sector finance and new financial instruments; the importance of a stable energy supply for economic and industrial development; the need for capacity building and knowledge creation on the potential of renewables; the role of policies and institutions in shaping stable and conducive investment environments; and the special attention needed to supply energy to the poor.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Campaigners for increased health financing welcome the commitment by African Union member states to direct more resources to health. But the needs of the continent seem to dwarf available budgets. Africa, is home to 12 percent of the world's population, yet accounts for 22 percent of the total global disease burden. More than 68 percent of the people living with HIV/AIDS are also found in Sub-Saharan Africa. About 4.5 million children under five die each year due to malnutrition, diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria and HIV.

ETHIOPIA / GHANA - Many sub-Saharan African countries are off-track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, but there have been pockets of success: Ghana is set to become the first country in Africa to halve poverty and hunger before 2015, while primary school enrolment in Ethiopia has increased by more than 500 percent since 1994.

LIBERIA - The representatives of the Paris Club creditor countries met with representatives of the Government of the Republic of Liberia on 16 September 2010 and agreed on a debt cancellation for the Republic of Liberia following its Completion Point under the enhanced initiative for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (enhanced HIPC Initiative) reached on 29 June 2010. Paris Club creditors welcomed the Republic of Liberia's determination to continue to implement a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy and an ambitious economic program providing the basis for sustainable economic growth.

SOUTH AFRICA is to resume the deportation of Zimbabweans on 1 January 2011, on the basis that conditions in their home country have improved sufficiently, while those with valid documents will be issued with permits to stay. This is a welcome promise, activists say, but hard to implement and irrelevant to most expatriates.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - As late monsoon rains continue to swell Bangladeshi rivers, floodwaters have forced more than 140,000 people to flee their homes and destroyed some 40,000 hectares of farmland, officials say.

PHILIPPINES - A new study by United Nations Children's Fund estimates that 12.8 million children under the age of 15 are living in poverty, an increase of one million over a three-year period.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA and BARBUDA - Paris Club creditor countries met with representatives of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on 16 September 2010 and agreed on a restructuring of its public external debt. This agreement follows the International Monetary Fund's approval of Antigua and Barbuda's Stand-By Arrangement on 7 June 2010. This agreement reduces by over 86% the debt service due to the Paris Club creditors during the Fund supported programme under the Stand-By Arrangement. It rescheduled roughly US\$ 117 million consisting of arrears (roughly US\$ 98.1 million, including late interest) due as of 31 August 2010 as well as maturities falling due from 1st September 2010 up to 30 April 2013 (roughly US\$ 18.9 million) which will be repaid over 12 years including 5 years of grace. ODA loans will be rescheduled at a concessional rate.

WFWO's Communications Team