

# NEWS BULLETIN

18 January 2011



## GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon is calling for a revolution in clean energy as a key to addressing not only climate change but also world development goals. Addressing the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, he said affordable and clean energy is necessary for the health of the planet as well as meeting Millennium Development Goals across a range of peace and prosperity issues.

The UN FAO has released draft guidelines that would govern the practice of tossing back into the sea dead or dying fish that were caught accidentally. Fisheries experts from 35 countries support the new rules, which, in addition to fish, cover other so-called bycatch such as turtles, seabirds, dolphins and sharks.

## AFRICA

UGANDA - For the third month running, men and women seeking condoms at local health centres in some northern Ugandan districts have found empty dispensers. Health workers warn that the continuing shortage could affect regional HIV prevention efforts.

SOUTH AFRICA will launch its own development aid agency in 2011 in a move likely to boost the country's status as an emerging economic power and champion of the African continent.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

PAKISTAN's problems with militancy, a fragile economy and natural disasters such as the 2010 floods have often been discussed, but an even greater threat may be posed by the sheer numbers of people in the country.

SRI LANKA - The United Nations is requesting an emergency increase in aid - particularly mosquito nets, clean water and food - for Sri Lanka as the death toll continues to climb from floods that have destroyed several thousand homes and driven some 390,000 people to higher ground. Flood victims are accusing local government leaders of withholding relief supplies from the most needy, and instead divvying it among political supporters.

## EURASIA

RUSSIA - The intensification of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia - fueled largely by intravenous drug use and unprotected sex with addicts - runs counter to worldwide trends showing reductions in the spread of the disease. Current government health education programs neglect drug users, who represent a great number of the nearly 60,000 new cases of HIV in 2009, an 8% increase from 2008.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - More rain is expected, and the fear of disease is growing as the death toll from flooding mounts in the hard-hit region north of Rio de Janeiro. Authorities reported that at least 626 people have been killed by floodwaters and landslides in the mountainous region. The government is warning survivors of the risk of disease from drinking contaminated water.

HAITI/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - The cholera epidemic ravaging Haiti has affected even this small southern border town, which lived primarily from the trade with its neighbour even though it counts for less than five percent of the cross-border market trade.

WFWO's Communications Team