



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has reportedly selected Costa Rican diplomat Christiana Figueres as a replacement for departing climate secretariat chief Yvo de Boer and is expected to present his choice in Bonn.

ENVIRONMENT - Estimates of the amount of oil released by the spill at the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico have skyrocketed, with scientists predicting a much larger and more ecologically devastating oil spill than initially predicted. BP reported some success in extracting oil and gas from a tube to a ship nearly a mile above the mouth of the leak, but BP could not release figures on how much oil was being diverted in this way. U.S. researchers have described the initial estimate of the leak of 5,000 barrels per day as too low, with the real number more likely up to 80,000 barrels per day.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia signed an agreement on Friday to seek the rights to use a greater share of water from the River Nile. Egypt and Sudan currently control 90 per cent of the river's water flow under a colonial-era accord dating from 1959. The four East African countries have been negotiating to get more water from the Nile for the past 13 years but have so far failed to reach a new deal. Three other upstream countries - Kenya, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo - who were also represented at Friday's meeting in Entebbe, Uganda, may sign up later. The head of the European Union delegation in Egypt, Marc Franco, warned that a separate deal between the upstream countries would only worsen existing political problems.

ANGOLA - Think small to overcome big problems - that was the message to African governments being urged to do more to increase food security and reduce hunger and malnutrition on the continent.

LIBERIA - Humanitarian workers in Liberia worry that as the UN and NGOs scale down aid operations, the fight against sexual violence will suffer, given a limited capacity in national institutions to take it on.

SOMALIA - The widening rift between Somalia's leaders could weaken the transitional government and its ability to deal with problems facing the country, ranging from insurgency to humanitarian crises, according to observers and civil society sources.

SUDAN - Southern Sudanese authorities have stepped up efforts to collect illegal weapons in Lakes State, but critics say the process is prone to abuse and has left some communities unprotected.

■ASIA

INDIA - The Indian government has diverted tens of millions of US dollars aimed at fighting poverty to fund Delhi's 2010 Commonwealth Games, a new report claims. The pressure group Housing and Land Rights Network published a report last week accusing the central and state governments of funding the sports event with money intended to help raise underprivileged low caste communities out of poverty. The report says over 100,000 poor families have already been evicted to make way for the Commonwealth Games. It estimates that another 40,000 families may be displaced before the event starts in October. The Housing and Land Rights Network says its findings are based on official documents obtained under India's right to information act. Government officials in Delhi vowed to investigate the claims.

WFWO's Communications Team