



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

ENVIRONMENT - UN Environment Programme executive director has said that an approach to global climate change involving many treaties on individual issues is unlikely to prevent climate change - even in the face of continued resistance from the U.S. and China to a legally binding treaty. Experts say that the upcoming climate conference in Cancun, Mexico, represents an opportunity to finalize a less formal deal that would realize pledges made in accord with the nonbinding Copenhagen agreement totaling more than \$30 billion to assist poor and developing countries adjust to the impacts of climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE - An international conference of grass-roots organizations and climate-change activists in Bolivia argued that a court should be convened to try countries for crimes against the climate. The World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by Bolivian President Evo Morales, established that wealthy countries must reduce carbon emissions by 50%. Of more serious concern to wealthy interests is the opposition voiced by the conference to the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation scheme, which would allow countries to earn carbon credits for deforestation efforts.

DEVELOPMENT - The global economic crisis is projected to hamper progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and will directly impact MDGs related to hunger, child and maternal health, gender equality, access to clean water and disease control, according to a report released Friday by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to the "Global Monitoring Report 2010: MDGs after the Crisis", the economic crisis will result in 53 million more people remaining in extreme poverty by 2015 than otherwise would have.

■AFRICA

BURKINA FASO - New meningitis strain arrives - A new strain of meningitis, strain NMX, also known simply as strain 'X', has broken out in Burkina Faso, where it caused just over half the new cases reported in the past week. Six of Burkina Faso's 13 regions are at epidemic level.

GAMBIA - Cash-strapped farmers in Gambia are flocking to towns and cities because of erratic rains in 2009 and the fact that a recently reformed system of extending loans to farmers is still not working, say NGOs and farmers.

KENYA - The Constitutional Court in Kenya has barred the government from implementing the Anti-Counterfeit Act of 2008 as it applies to generic medicines until a verdict is delivered in a case filed by three people living with HIV.

TANZANIA - Zanzibar's malaria success a potential banana skin - Efforts to combat malaria in Zanzibar have seen the prevalence rate come down from 35 percent before 2008 to below 1 percent, but health officials are worried the gains could be reversed.

■ASIA

TIMOR-LESTE - Poor storage adds to food insecurity - Almost a third of Timor-Leste's maize harvest is lost each year due to poor storage facilities, analysts say, fuelling food insecurity.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - The Haitian government has asked aid organizations to halt distribution of free food despite concerns from local officials that tens of thousands remain homeless or unemployed. Haiti's health care system is facing a crisis as private hospitals struggle to remain open after providing free treatment in the wake of the Jan. 12 earthquake and competing with aid groups to maintain staff.

WFWO's Communications Team