

NEWS BULLETIN

9 September 2011



GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - World leaders need to increase their efforts to forge an agreement on a plan to battle climate change, United Nations Secretary-General says. Hopes for an agreement are low as leaders prepare to meet at a UN climate summit in November as rich and poor countries continue to argue over emission cuts.

FOOD - The cost of maize meal, a staple in many African countries, is set to go up, and wheat prices are heading in the same direction, according to the latest Food and Agriculture Organization global price update.

AFRICA

TECHNOLOGY - Cellular telephones are a more effective use of technology to promote development in Africa than the Internet as only small percentages of people across the continent have reliable access, development advocates say. Services such as M-Pesa, which was developed as a way to repay microloans via phone but swiftly changed into an entire banking system, have helped Africans overcome infrastructure and security challenges.

UGANDAN authorities are facing off against opposition politicians and activists over plans to allocate a large section of protected rainforest for sugarcane production. The government argues the plan will create new jobs, but critics charge it would degrade an area rich in biodiversity and endanger hundreds of plant and animal species.

ASIA

SRI LANKA must do more to help tens of thousands of women widowed during the country's battle with the Tamil Tigers, local women's rights advocates say. Widowed women in the former conflict zone are tasked with rebuilding and providing income for their families, in addition to traditional child care and household responsibilities.

WFWO's Communications Team