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SDGs for All - April 2019 In Retrospect

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Demographic Peace Likely as Russia, China and USA Turn Grey



Viewpoint by Jonathan Power

LUND, Sweden (IDN-INPS) – Traditionally old men have sent young men to fight the wars they have started. Today it may be somewhat different. Old men may be shying away from war while young men are still beholden to it.

The world, as never before, is becoming demographically lopsided, with older people concentrated in rich countries and the young in not-so-rich countries. These older societies are becoming less warlike, as the influence of the experienced and the wise filters down into the body politic.

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Animal Market Nerve Centre of Local Economy in Kyrgyzstan



By Kalinga Seneviratne

AT-BASHY, Kyrgyzstan (IDN) – Separated by mountain ranges from the rest of the country, Naryn province in southeastern Kyrgyzstan lies at an altitude of between 1300 to 3000 meters. Sheep and cattle, raised on the extensive grasslands and alpine pastures, are the mainstay of the economy. While horses play an important

role in transport, they also do so in shepherding the herds, especially in summer.

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Experts Slate 'Fortress Europe' and Push-Back Policies



By Ronald Joshua



GENEVA (IDN) – Experts with first-hand experience in the migrant and refugee crisis have underlined problems during their work on the ground, in coordinating rescue operations and aid distribution, or documenting and raising awareness of the

situation caused by the current massive displacement of people worldwide turning into a politicized crisis of solidarity, with closed border policies and the rise of xenophobic, populist trends.

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UN Chief Expects Belt and Road Initiative to Foster 'Inclusive, Sustainable and Durable' Development



By Sean Buchanan

LONDON (IDN) – China's international trade and economic development plan – known as the Belt and Road Initiative – could contribute to a more equitable and prosperous world, and help reverse the

negative impact of climate change, according to UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Addressing Chinese President Xi Jinping and dozens of other state leaders at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on April 26, Guterres urged the international community to “come together” in mobilising resources to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and “stop runaway climate change.”

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Drought Looms for South-East Asia



By Sean Buchanan

LONDON (IDN) – South-East Asia is expected to experience a future of many dry years and the hardest hit will be the poor, especially farming communities that rely on regular rainfall for their annual crops and have few resources to fall back on during periods of rain shortfall.

This is the prospect for the region outlined in a just-released study by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) entitled *Ready for the Dry Years: Building Resilience to Drought in South-East Asia*.

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Infrastructure Development Key to Africa's Growth



By Kester Kenn Klomegah

MOSCOW (IDN) – Over the years, African Union officials have repeatedly urged African leaders to prioritise Africa's [Agenda 2063](#) – a strategic framework for delivering on Africa's goal for inclusive and sustainable development – and the United



Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 15-member UN Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution welcoming AU initiatives for infrastructure development and pledging support for "African solutions to African problems" in an attempt to achieve the SDGs.

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The Secret of Greatness Lies in 'Net Resources'



Viewpoint by Jonathan Power

LUND, Sweden (IDN-INPS) – Let's make America great again! Or as the prime minister of France said: Let's make France great again. Or, as President Donald Trump conceded, let every nation in the world announce that they are going to be great again. But what makes for greatness? Over that there is a big dispute.

Strategists say that power has to be measured carefully because "the balance of power is the motor of world politics, playing a role as central as the role of energy in physics and money in economics", as writes Professor Michael Beckley of Tufts University.

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Women in Politics: Miles to Go Before Parity Is Achieved



By Zipporah Musau

NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) – In the fight for gender equality, women around the world have advanced in small and large ways. Yet for women in Africa, progress is measured in micro steps, and the struggle has a long

way to go.

The good news is that women's representation in political decision making has been on the rise globally. The not-so-good news is that the increase has been stubbornly slow, barely 1% in 2018 compared with the previous year. In 2018 the number of women ministers worldwide reached an all-time high at 20.7% (812 out of 3922).

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Young Botswana Minister Is Opening Doors for Women and Girls



By Baboki Kayawe*

GABORONE (IDN-INPS) – Bogolo Kenewendo describes herself as having been "an ordinary Botswana child with an ordinary upbringing". Kenewendo, poised

and focused beyond her years, is being modest. At 32, she is Botswana's youngest minister, in charge of investment, trade and industry.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in economics, specializing in macroeconomic policy, public debt management, export development and other trade-related fields.

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WHO Forum on Medicines Calls for Fair Prices



By Ronald Joshua

JOHANNESBURG (IDN) – Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development, according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) scheduled to be realized by 2030. Goal 3 cannot however be achieved as long as people have to pay

for medicines out-of-pocket and fall into poverty. This happens to 100 million each year.

With this in view, Dr Mariângela Simão, Assistant Director General for Medicines and Health Products at the World Health Organization (WHO) says: “Medical innovation has little social value if most people cannot access its benefits,” adding: “This is a global human rights issue – everyone has a right to access quality healthcare.”

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2019 A Defining Year for Implementing SDGs and the Paris Agreement



By António Guterres

The following are extensive excerpts from opening remarks of the UN Secretary-General to the 2019 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum on April 15. This, he said, was “critical moment for governments, businesses, and societies to accelerate action for sustainable development”.

NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) – We have the tools to tackle poverty, inequality, climate change and environmental pressures. They were defined in the great multilateral agreements reached in 2015: the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the [Addis Ababa Agenda for Action](#), and the [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change.

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Inadequate Funding Threatens Sustainable Development Goals



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – Much to the United Nations’ dismay, desperately missing funds are imperiling realization of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

Investments that are critical to achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) remain underfunded and parts of the multilateral system are under strain, warned a new report as the fourth [Forum on Financing for Development](#) opened on April 15, 2019 at the UN Headquarters.

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Radio Connects a Kyrgyz Community with the World



By Kalinda Seneviratne



SUUSAMYR, Kyrgyzstan (IDN) – Travelling on the new Silk Roads recently upgraded by the Chinese, one drives up through stunning mountains that are still covered by snow even as summer approaches. The road from Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek climbs up to a peak of about 4.000 meters before

descending over 1500 meters to a picturesque valley to reach one of the remotest communities in the country, the village of Suusamyir home to about 1,300 traditionally nomadic people. (P03) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TURKISH](#)

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FAO Starts Giving Much-Needed Seeds to Cyclone Hit Mozambique



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK | ROME (IDN) – While clock is ticking to reboot agriculture as secondary growing season is already underway, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has started distribution of much-needed seeds and tools in cyclone-ravaged Mozambique.

Nearly three weeks after the Tropical Cyclone Idai, which was one of the worst long-lived storms on record, that caused catastrophic damage in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, farmers in Mozambique have started to receive much-needed agricultural inputs.

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Call for UN Summit on Digitalization and Sustainability



By Rita Joshi

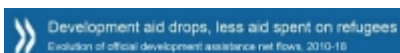
BERLIN (IDN) – A new report has called on Germany and the European Union to convene a United Nations summit on 'Digitalization and Sustainability' in 2020 – 30 years after the UN Conference on Environment and Development, widely known as the Earth Summit in Rio de

Janeiro.

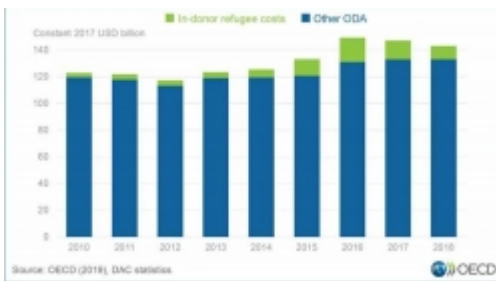
The central theme of the summit should be reaching agreement on the necessary fundamental steps to be taken to achieve digitally supported sustainable development and to avoid the risks involved in digital change, say the authors of the report entitled '[Towards our Common Digital Future](#)', presented by the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) to Federal Minister of Education and Research Anja Karliczek and Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze on April 11, 2019.

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Rich Nations Slash Development Aid to Neediest Countries



By Krishan Dutta



PARIS (IDN) – “Donor countries are not living up to their 2015 pledge to ramp up development finance and this bodes badly for us being able to achieve the **2030 Sustainable Development Goals**,” OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría has cautioned.

The warning of the head of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** comes at a time when, according to preliminary data collected by the OECD, official development assistance (ODA) from 30 member countries of the club of rich nations fell 2.7 percent in 2018 from 2017. The worst affected by the declining share were the neediest countries.

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African Migrants Strive to Preserve Their Cultural Heritage



By Sharon Birch-Jeffrey*

NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) – To experience a taste of African culture deep inside the Big Apple, visitors – including many Senegalese – turn to Le Petit Senegal (Little Senegal), a West African neighborhood in West Harlem, New York.

African grocery shops, fabric stores, hair braiding parlors and regional restaurants sit shoulder to shoulder along the streets. The Sandaga Market of Little Senegal showcases a strong blend of African cultures, customs and languages, symbolizing efforts by African immigrants to project and protect their cultural identities.

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Angola Plans Manufacturing Russian Military Equipment

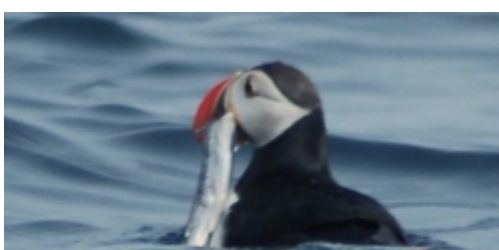


By Kester Kenn Klomegah*

MOSCOW (IDN) – Many African countries are looking for profitable business, investment and trade rather than development aid. Now Angola, a south-central Africa, has announced corporate plans to diversify its state business away from purchasing to full-fledged manufacturing of Russian military equipment for the southern African market, and possibly other regions in Africa – impeding realization of the **Sustainable Development Goal 16** calling for peace and justice. (P02) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SWAHILI](#)

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Ocean Warming Blamed for Lack of Iceland’s Capelin



By Lowana Veal

REYKJAVIK (IDN) - After five research expeditions in search of capelin, Iceland’s Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (IMFRI) has decided not to recommend a quota for it this year, arguing that global



warming is probably responsible for the lack of the fish.

According to Thorsteinn Sigurdsson, head of the Pelagic Division at the institute, capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) is a cold-water fish and mostly chooses to be at a marine temperature between 1-3°C. “Concomitant with ocean warming north of Iceland before the turn of the century, changes started to appear in the distribution of capelin off Iceland and instead of being spread out to the north of Iceland and the West Fjords, it was mostly found off the east coast of Greenland,” he said. (P01) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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