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SDGs for All - August 2018 In Retrospect

Published by the [International Press Syndicate](#) Group
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Kazakhstan Persistently Pursuing Peace and Security Agenda



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – Four months before Kazakhstan's eventful two-year non-permanent membership of the Security Council comes to an end, the Central Asian Republic continues to make its presence felt in an organ of the United Nations, which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

2018 began with Kazakhstan, as the first Central Asian country ever, assuming presidency of the Council during the month of January with the aim to make a feasible contribution to the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation, conflicts in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Central Asia, the de-escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and the resolution of crises in Africa and Asia.

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Guterres Urges Security Council to Work with Myanmar, Says Rohingya Refugees Lack Life-Saving Assistance



By António Guterres

A report released on August 27 by UN investigators accused Myanmar's military of carrying out mass killings and gang rapes of the Rohingya with "genocidal intent" and called for prosecution of the country's commander-in-chief, senior General Ming Aung Hlaing, and five generals. On August 28, UN Secretary-General António Guterres spoke "with a heavy heart" to the Security Council meeting on Myanmar asking for those behind the Rohingya crisis to be held accountable. – The Editor

NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) – [...] The massive refugee emergency that began one year ago in Rakhine State, Myanmar, has become one of the world's worst

humanitarian and human rights crises.

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Indigenous Peoples in the Grip of 'Criminalization', Warns New UN Report



By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN) – A new United Nations report warns that "in a wide variety of countries," both physical violence and legal prosecution are used against Indigenous Peoples defending their rights and lands.

They are "criminalized".

The report by the [UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, to the [UN Human Rights Council](#) describes how private sector interests collude with governments in coveting the lands of Indigenous Peoples for economic development projects.

She was Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2005 to 2010, and actively engaged in drafting and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007.

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Space Science Vital to Achieving Global Development Goals



By Justus Wanzala

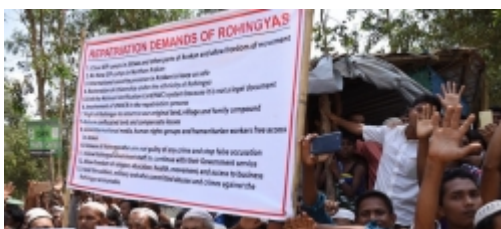
NAIROBI (ACP-IDN) – Space science and earth observation are some of the key pillars in the attainment of most of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to experts participating in an international conference,

organized by the Regional Centre for Mapping Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Kenya's capital city.

The central theme of the RCMRD International Conference (RIC 2018) was 'Space Science for Sustainable Development' with particular focus on agriculture and food security, weather and climate, water and hydro-climatic disasters, land use land cover and ecosystems, land management and surveying, and cross cutting themes.

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The Rohingya are Subject to Genocide, International Community Must Act



Viewpoint by Razia Sultana

The author is a Rohingya lawyer, researcher and educator specializing in trauma, mass rape and trafficking of Rohingya girls and women. She has been working with Rohingya women and girls in the refugee

camps in Bangladesh documenting the stories of women and girls who fled Myanmar, and has published two reports: in 2017 and in February 2018. She is coordinator of the Free Rohingya Coalition, Director of Arakan Rohingya National Organization's (ARNO) women section, and the founder of Rohingya Women

DHAKA (IDN) – One year ago, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people arrived in Bangladesh from Myanmar with only the clothes on their back and stories of terror, rape, and murder. The UK, the U.S. and others have described the events as ethnic cleansing but I describe them without hesitation as genocide.

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'2030 SDGs Game' Arouses Growing Interest in Japan



By Ramesh Jaura and Katsuhiko Asagiri

BERLIN | TOKYO (IDN) – Reports have it that when Albert Einstein was some five years old and confined to bed, his father gave him a magnetic pocket compass to play with. He twisted and turned it, wondering how the needle always knew to point towards the north.

Takeo Inamura and Nobuhide Fukui share a similarly profound curiosity about how the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), world leaders adopted in September 2015 at an [historic UN Summit](#) in New York, could really transform the world. (P12) [CHINESE](#) | [INDONESIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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A Glimmer of Hope for Zanzibar Seaweed Farmers



By Kizito Makoye

PAJE, Zanzibar (IDN) – As the morning breeze sweeps Mwanamkasi Jumbe wade through knee-deep water, her gown flapping in the wind as she drags a pile of seaweed seedlings to her farm before it is too hot.

Armed with a bundle of sticks, she hangs pieces of fresh seaweed haphazardly hooked on a yellow polyethylene rope.

"It's a tough job, but I love doing it. I get something to support my family," she says. "The seedling takes six weeks to mature," she adds.

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To the Youth of the World: An Appeal for Resilience and Hope



By Adolfo Pérez Esquivel and Daisaku Ikeda

Nobel Peace Prize laureate [Adolfo Pérez Esquivel](#) and Buddhist philosopher [Daisaku Ikeda](#)'s son Hiramasa Ikeda, SGI Vice President presented this appeal at a press conference at Rome's Foreign Press Association on June 5. Together with five youth from different countries, Esquivel and

Hiramasa Ikeda also presented the statement at a Youth Convention on the

evening of June 6 at the popular Ex Dogana performance space in the city. Organized by the Italian affiliate of SERPAJ and Soka Gakkai Italy, it was attended by 800 young people of diverse faiths including representatives of the Young Jewish Union of Italy, the Italian Buddhist Union, the Catholic Church, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Islamic community of Italy (COREIS) and other local institutions and NGOs. Participants enjoyed music from a traditional Afghan group, "Voice of Nature," the Soka Millennium Ensemble and DJ Massimiliano Mascaro.

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'Right To Water' Should Be A Major Human Right, Say Indonesian Women Activists



By Kalinga Seneviratne

JAKARTA (IDN) – Indonesian women activists, fighting an uphill battle to reverse a 20-year old water privatization project signed by former authoritarian ruler Suharto with French and British companies with the support of a \$92 million loan from the [World Bank](#), argue that the United Nations and the international human rights community need

to prioritize 'right to water' as a major human right.

"We are seeing that a lot of communal resources like land, water, even the air, are not belonging to the community anymore. It's a shifting of the perspective," argues Dinda Nuur Annisaa Yura, National Program Coordinator, the Coalition of Jakarta Residents Opposed to Water Privatization (KMMSAJ).

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Morocco Provides 'Safe Spaces' for Youth



By Julia Payne

MARRAKECH (IDN) – As a society, we have hopes and dreams for the future; for our children, our countries, and the global community. These aspirations rest on the shoulders of the young generation. August 12, 2018 marked the 18th celebration of the UN's annual [International Youth Day](#).

This awareness day was a unique opportunity to reflect on youth's challenges and to celebrate and support the world's future leaders. This year's theme, 'Safe Spaces for Youth' highlighted the importance of youth's engagement, participation, and freedom of thought.

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UN Determined to Protect Civilians, Humanitarian Aid Workers



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – Fifteen years ago, a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Iraq's capital Baghdad killed 22 humanitarian aid workers, including the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-

General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. The Brazilian United Nations diplomat

had been working for the world body's humanitarian and political programs for more than 34 years.

"The Canal Hotel bombing was," according to Secretary-General António Guterres, "a massive loss for the United Nations and the humanitarian community, and it marked a turning point for the need to increase the protection of humanitarian operations in Iraq and worldwide."

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The Indigenous Peoples, TRIPS & Biodiversity Convention



By Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

The writer is the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and a Member of the [South Centre Board](#). She has served as chairperson of the [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (2005-2010). Following are extensive extracts from her presentation at the International Conference on the TRIPS-

CBD Linkage: Issues and Way Forward, held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 7-8 June 2018. [South Views carried the full text](#). The conference was jointly organized by the South Centre, the Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa to the WTO. - The Editor

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Leading Singapore NGO Supports Free Childcare for 'Low-Income Mothers'



By Kalinga Seneviratne

SINGAPORE (IDN) – The [Association of Women for Action and Research \(AWARE\)](#) – Singapore's leading gender equality advocacy group – has called upon the government to provide free childcare to low-income families to enable, especially single mothers, to find sustainable employment.

In a report titled '[Why are you not working?](#)' based on interviews with 47 mothers from low-income families – most of whom come from the minority Malay and Indian communities – AWARE said that the rise of precarious employment, gradual withering away of family backing and lack of public support for caregiving has made it impossible for mothers of low-income families to balance work and caring for the children.

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E-Government Favours Sustainable and Resilient Societies, Finds UN Survey



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – Almost two thirds of 193 United Nations member States demonstrate a high-level of e-government

development with EGDI (the E-Government Development Index) values above in the range of 0.5 and 1. finds a new [survey](#). which also draws attention to the

widening 'digital divide' between the industrialized and least developed countries.

The share of countries with low e-government levels, in the range of 0 to 0.25, has dropped by a significant 50 percent, from 32 countries in to 16 countries in 2018, says the 2018 UN E-Government Survey.

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G20 Anti-Corruption Commitments At Risk



By Sean Buchanan

LONDON (IDN) – As governments across the globe crack down on citizen groups, stifling their ability to speak out and hold governments to account, the role of civil society is more important now than ever.

With this in mind, activists from more than 600 civil society organisations and more than 45 countries worldwide gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from August 6 to 7 for the sixth annual [Civil 20](#) summit. The meeting came at a critical time prior to the meeting of the Group of Twenty ([G20](#)) in November.

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UN Supports Comprehensive Reform Process in Lesotho



By Ntsoaki Nkoe

MASERU (IDN) – Lesotho has launched a landmark project with the European Union willing to provide Euros 12.5 million (approx. USD14.4 million) and the United Nations USD 2 million. Known as the [Lesotho National Dialogue and Stabilization Project \(LNDSP\)](#), the initiative aims to stimulate a comprehensive national reforms process

the southern African country is undertaking.

Explaining the genesis of the project, UN Resident Coordinator Salvator Niyonzima said the launch of the project was the result of several months of consultations, project formulation and fund raising going back to September 2017 when Prime Minister Thomas Thabane wrote to the UN Secretary-General requesting UN support to Lesotho's long-anticipated national reforms.

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Kudos and Criticism for New UN Human Rights Chief



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – Moments after the UN General Assembly unanimously agreed on August 10 to appoint Chile's former President Michelle Bachelet as the seventh UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Secretary-General António Guterres

tweeted: "Ms. Bachelet is a pioneer, a visionary, a woman of principle, and a great human rights leader for these troubled times." He had had put forward her candidacy to the General Assembly on August 8.

The United Nations Association – UK ([UNA-UK](#)) Executive Director Natalie

The United Nations Association for Women (UNA-WOMEN) Executive Director, Hilarie Samarasinghe, agreed: she is "certainly a strong choice", and added: "She has experience at the highest level of government in Chile, at the highest level of administration within the UN system as the first head of UN Women, and of working with civil society under the shadow of oppression." (P11) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#)

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Advancing Disarmament Within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Viewpoint by Izumi Nakamitsu

*The author is Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. This article first appeared in **UN Chronicle**, Vol. LV No. 2 2018 | August 2018.*

NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) – The idea that disarmament and arms control are connected to development is not new. Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations recognizes disarmament as a precondition for durable peace, security and development by calling for the maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion of the world's economic and human resources for arms.

For a long time, however, disarmament has largely slipped off the development agenda. This is despite overwhelming evidence that excessive arms accumulation diverts needed resources from development and fuels armed conflict and violence, leading to unnecessary death and suffering, social inequality and environmental degradation.

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Empower Indigenous Women, Strengthen Communities



By Santo D. Banerjee

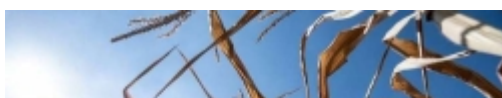
NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) - August 9 is International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. On this occasion, UN Women calls on each of us to commit to making the voices of indigenous peoples, and indigenous women, louder and more impactful than ever

before: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/8/statement-un-women-international-day-of-the-worlds-indigenous-peoples>.

At a time of unprecedented human mobility, indigenous women are on the move too, often fleeing violence, environmental disasters and land encroachments that have eaten into their sources of food, water and way of life. The positive economic spin-offs of migration don't always reach them. There is a move also for justice, as they mobilize to make their voices heard, demand punishment for perpetrators and reparations to restore their dignity.

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New Study Warns Of 'Hothouse' Threatening Planet Earth



By Rita Joshi

BERLIN (IDN) – Planet Earth is inching



towards crossing the Rubicon by passing a tipping point and entering an irresistible "Hothouse" state. Rivers would flood, coasts would vanish, storms would wreak havoc on coastal communities, coral reefs would be eliminated, and numerous people would perish because of food scarcity and

inescapable lethal heat.

All this by century's end or even earlier, even if the carbon emission reductions called for in the [Paris Agreement](#) are met, scientists at the [Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research](#) in Germany, [University of Copenhagen](#), and [Australian National University](#) have warned. [JAPANESE](#)

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Stakes High in Returning Nigerians' Stolen Millions



By Kwame Buist

LONDON (IDN) – Of the estimated 20-40 billion dollars stolen annually from developing countries and hidden abroad every year, a small proportion is sometimes successfully confiscated and returned to the country it came from.

However, where institutions of accountability do not work well, this poses a complex problem: how to make sure that the money is not embezzled again, and actually benefits the real victims of corruption – the ordinary people whose state finances were plundered.

Take one case, Nigeria, where plans are under way to distribute 322 million dollars recovered in Switzerland from the late General Sani Abacha, the country's former military ruler who is suspected of looting between three and five billion dollars in public money.

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Tanzania's Indigenous Communities Racing to Secure Land Eyed by Investors



By Kizito Makoye

DAR ES SALAAM (IDN) – Helena Magafu smiled as she held a piece of paper that recognizes her as the sole owner of a disputed farmland in her village was handed over to her, thus resolving a raging dispute with her neighbours.

"I am very happy, I don't think anyone with ever again claim this is their land," she said

For the past eight years the 53 year-old widow, who lives in Sanje village in the rural district of Kilombero – in Morogoro Region, south-western Tanzania – has been embroiled in a dispute with her neighbours who attempted to take 30 hectares of her family land when her husband died. (P10) [JAPANESE TEXT](#)
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Published by

The [International Press Syndicate](#) Group

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