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SDGs for All - December 2018 In Retrospect

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UN Security Council Reform Back On The Table Again



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – Foreign Minister Heiko Maas of Germany, which takes up its seat as a non-permanent member of the 15-nation United Nations Security Council on January 1, says the current composition of the Council is "outdated" and that it needs to be reformed.

He told the German news agency DPA that "the balance of power in the world needs to be reflected much more adequately than is currently the case," and insisted that Germany should hold a permanent seat.

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Except A Few Dissenters World Leaders Pledge To Bolster Multilateralism



By Ramesh Jaura

NEW YORK (IDN) – As the new year unfolds, UN Secretary-General António Guterres' appeal for addressing the "trust deficit disorder" plaguing the world, and General Assembly President María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés' plea for

stressing the need to enshrine the General Assembly as the "chief peacebuilding organization in the world" will serve as a clarion call to urgent action by the international community. All the more so because the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 was held against the backdrop of burgeoning unilateralism and large-scale migration. (P20) [CHINESE](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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A Critical Year Ahead For EU's Ties With 79 ACP Countries



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (ACP-IDN) – 2019 will be a crucial year for relations between the European Union (EU) and 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) – uniting more than half of all UN member countries and representing over 1.5 billion

people.

The current partnership, governed by the Cotonou agreement, is one of the longest-standing and most comprehensive framework for cooperation between the EU and developing countries. The current agreement expires in 2020. Therefore, the new agreement needs to be both finalised and approved by then.

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Africa Poverty Clock Launched on UNECA's 60th Anniversary



By Devendra Kamarajan

ADDIS ABABA (IDN) – The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at its 60th anniversary celebrations in Addis Ababa has launched the *Africa Poverty*

Clock, a customized version of the [world poverty clock](#) developed by World Data Lab, aimed at monitoring progress against extreme poverty, an aspiration of the United Nations' first Sustainable Development Goal – [SDG1](#). The Clock provides real-time poverty estimates till 2030 for the majority of countries around the world.

Speaking at the launch, the ECA Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe said that many African countries have achieved remarkable progress over the last six decades.

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Migration Is a Great Opportunity to Africa and Host Countries



By Caroline Mwanga

NEW YORK (IDN) – Contrary to the widespread view coloured by the too-common images of young African migrants crossing the Mediterranean, migration in Africa is dominated by Africans moving within Africa, says Ashraf El Nour, the

director of the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) Office to the UN in New York.

They migrate mostly to neighbouring countries, or within the same region. Africa's share of global migration, which on the whole stood at [258 million in 2017](#), are 36 million people of which 19 million moved within the continent and 17 million outside Africa, El Nour [told Africa Renewal's](#) Zipporah Musau.

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One Short Drone Flight Is A 'Big Leap' For Global Health



By Santo D. Banerjee



NEW YORK | PORT VILA (IDN) – One month old Joy Nowai has become the world's first child to be given a vaccine delivered commercially by drone in a remote island in the South Pacific country of Vanuatu, the United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)) reported on December 18.

The vaccine delivery through the state-of-the-art craft covered almost 40 kilometres of rugged mountainous terrain from Dillon's Bay on the west side of the island to the east landing in remote Cook's Bay, where 13 children and five pregnant women were vaccinated by Miriam Nampil, a registered nurse.

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Africa's Blue Economy Or a Global Ocean Grab by the Rich?



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – Six counties in Kenya's coastal region have been tagged for technical training in the blue economy – what some have called "the new frontier of the African Renaissance". The goal is to enable young people to find jobs in the maritime industry.

Kevit Desai, a Kenyan vocational training principal, says institutions of higher learning must begin to focus on developing skills, nurturing innovations and enterprise creation for this "overlooked opportunity". He suggested a post-Blue Economy Conference workshop to create awareness and enhance community participation in this vision for the future.

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Possibility of Peace in Afghanistan Was Never More Real Than It's Now – UN Envoy



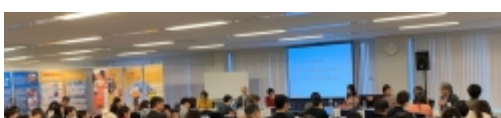
By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – The possibility of a negotiated end to the conflict in Afghanistan has never been more real in the past 17 years than it is now, according to the United Nations top envoy in Afghanistan.

Tadamichi Yamamoto told the Security Council on December 17 he is encouraged by several recent developments, including the appointment of a team to negotiate with the Taliban, the announcement of a peace advisory board representing a broad set of Afghan politicians and recent initiatives by key international partners.

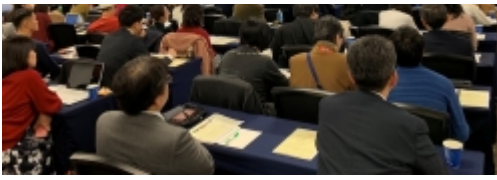
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Japan Shines with a Youth Forum to Commemorate Universal Human Rights Declaration



By Katsuhiko Asagiri

TOKYO (IDN) – When the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal



Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ([UDHR](#)) in Paris on December 10, 1948, it came up with a milestone document in the history of human rights that took into account the horrendous experiences of the Second

World War.

With the end of that war, and the creation of the United Nations, the international community vowed never again to allow atrocities like those of the Second World War happen again. It pledged, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. (P19) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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[EU Should Speak Against the Ill-Treatment of Eritreans](#)



Viewpoint by Chief Fortune Charumbira

The author is from Vice President of the Pan African Parliament ([PAP](#)), and President of the Chief Council in his home country Zimbabwe He gave an opening speech to the Conference titled 'We the People: Peace in the Horn & the Safety and Future of the Eritrean People' 12-14 December 2018. He noted that the success

of the conference has "the potential to transform" the lives of millions of Eritreans "who have been suffering for several years". The EU that preaches the respect for human rights as enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "must be louder in calling for the end of ill treatment of migrants". The following are extensive excerpts from his address.

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[Africa – Realising The Promise of the Demographic Dividend](#)



Viewpoint by Graça Machel

The author, who writes this piece following the recent publication of the [Africa Report on Child Wellbeing](#) and the African Child-Friendliness Index, is the widow of Nelson Mandela and former First Lady of both South Africa and Mozambique. She is Chair of the International Board of Trustees of the African Child Policy Forum ([ACPF](#)).

ADDIS ABABA (IDN) – Nelson Mandela famously said “History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.”

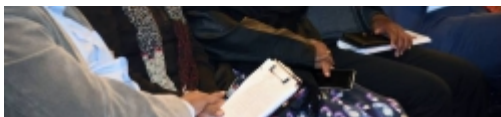
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[EU Urged to Evacuate Eritreans from Libyan 'Death Camps'](#)



By Ramesh Jaura

BRUSSELS (IDN) – When the Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed signed in July a peace deal after two decades of war and ensuing violent border clashes, "a new era



ensuing violent border clashes, "a new era of peace and friendship" was felt to have begun in the Horn of Africa comprising Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Six months on, African leaders and close observers of the situation in the region, attending the Eritrean diaspora conference in Brussels, have expressed grave concern that "peace and friendship" have yet to dawn on relations between the government in Asmara and Eritreans.

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UNDP Welcomes Significant Rise in German Funding



Berlin a 'Launch Partner' to UNDP's Accelerator Labs in 60 Countries

By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has greeted the German government's decision to raise a further 25 percent in funding from its 2019 core resources, which follows a 60

percent increase for 2018. Germany is currently the largest government donor to UNDP.

Germany – which assumes a seat in the UN Security Council on January 1, 2019 as a non-permanent member for 2019-2020 – has also confirmed that it will become a "launch partner" in supporting UNDP's pioneering and groundbreaking launch in January 2019 of Accelerator Labs in 60 developing countries.

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Participatory Development is a Humane Alternative to Migration



Viewpoint by Yossef Ben-Meir and Manon Burbidge

While Yossef Ben-Meir, Ph.D. is a sociologist and President of the [High Atlas Foundation](#), based in Marrakech, Manon Burbidge is a post-graduate studying Human Ecology at Lund University, Sweden and currently interning at the High Atlas Foundation.

MARRAKECH (IDN) – December 2018 is gearing up to be a pivotal month for migration on the world stage, and the epicentre is here, in Marrakech, Morocco, with two high-level fora taking place concerning development and migration.

However, in order for the discussions that take place at such conferences to be impactful on the lives of ordinary people.

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European Parliament Hails the Global Compact for Migration



By Robert Johnson

BRUSSELS (IDN) – Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) regret "the campaign of disinformation" that has led to several countries withdrawing their support

several countries withdrawing their support from the [United Nations Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#). They emphasize that the migration compact is a non-legally binding framework that does not create new obligations for states and is in full respect of the principle of national sovereignty.

164 out of the 193 member states of the UN that had gathered in Marrakech approved the Compact by consensus on December 10, defying the United States and other countries that had withdrawn, citing concerns about migrant flows and national sovereignty.

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Parliamentarians for Nuclear Disarmament Emphasize Need to Combat Climate Change



By Aleksandra Gadzinski

KATOWICE (IDN) – Nuclear weapons and climate change are the two major existential threats to the survival of humanity, civilization and the planet Earth. With this in view, in January 2018 the [Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#) moved the hands of the legendary Doomsday Clock to 2 minutes to

Midnight, due to the threats from nuclear weapons and climate change, said Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) at an event on December 9.

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Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change Threaten Human Survival



John Avery interviews David Krieger

COPENHAGEN | SANTA BARBARA, CA (IDN) – One of the five “M’s” can trigger a nuclear war any time: malice, madness, mistake, miscalculation and manipulation. "Of these five, only malice is subject to possibly being prevented by nuclear

deterrence and of this there is no certainty. But nuclear deterrence (threat of nuclear retaliation) will not be at all effective against madness, mistake, miscalculation or manipulation (hacking)," [David Krieger](#) tells [John Scales Avery](#) in an exceptional interview.

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Gap Widens Between Ambition and Action To Combat Future Climate Risks



By Aleksandra Gadzinski

KATOWICE (IDN) – Climate consciousness across the globe is on the rise. But a new report has found a considerable gap between countries' preparedness for climate change and the actual measures put in

place to prepare communities for a future of increasing climate risks.

The fourth edition of the UN Environment's [Adaptation Gap Report](#) highlights in particular a growing divide between the estimated annual costs of adaptation and

the actual global investments in resilience measures, establishing a distinct connection between adaptation to climate change and sustainable development that results in healthy communities and thriving economies.

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Ghanaian Inventor Eases Children's Access to Schools Across Rivers



By Devendra Kamarajan

ACCRA (IDN) – A young inventor, Frank Darko, has designed a water cycle to help Ghanaian children living in villages

throughout the Volta region reach schools. Currently, they must swim or wade through at least one river every day to get to the nearest school. This is particularly dangerous during the rainy season, three months a year.

Frank Darko, a 27-year-old Ghanaian man, was moved to action in 2017, after seeing a documentary and [news reports](#) about the children's plight, [reports](#) Raluca Besliu in YaleGlobal. He invented a water bicycle to help children and others living in river regions to cross bodies of water.

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UN Specialised Agency IFAD Joins 79-nation ACP to Rescue African Agriculture



IDN interviews IFAD President Gilbert Houngbo

By Jeffrey Moyo

HARARE (IDN) – Smallholder rural farmers in Zimbabwe are set to benefit from international funding intended to improve access to inputs, irrigation and the adoption of smart farming practices in the face of

predicted El Nino-induced drought.

On the first visit to Zimbabwe of a president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at the beginning of December, it was [made known](#) that the Rome-based specialised agency of the United Nations is making 51 million dollars available for development of the agricultural sector in remote areas of the country.

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Leaders Pledge to Boost Blue Economy, Protect Water Bodies



By Justus Wanzala

NAIROBI (IDN) – The Kenyan capital was literally painted 'blue' for the first-ever global conference on the blue economy attended by over 18,000 participants from 180 countries.

Running from November 26 to 28, the [Sustainable Blue Economy Conference](#) ended with various countries signing commitments to ensure that humanity benefits from the blue economy – or the sustainable use of ocean resources for

economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs.

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Conference Calls for Mainstreaming Human Rights Education



By Neena Bhandari

SYDNEY (IDN) – More investment is needed in human rights education and strengthening of civil society to address inequality and sustainability – the main objectives of the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#). This was the key message from the Ninth *International Conference on Human Rights Education*

(*ICHRE*) held in Sydney, Australia.

Drawing inspiration from the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#), which marks its 70th Anniversary this year, the [ICHRE 2018](#) (November 26-29) recommended all stakeholders to mainstream human rights education as a tool for social cohesion towards peaceful coexistence; and strive to bridge the significant gap between integrating human rights education in the curricula and its implementation. (P18) [CHINESE](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN](#) | [TURKISH](#)

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ACP Steps in to Rescue Africa from Climate Change Impacts



By Jeffrey Moyo

MASERU (ACP-IDN) – Three years ago, Lesotho, Southern Africa's small mountain kingdom surrounded by [South Africa](#), was hit hard by the drought that led to the driest season in the region in 35 years. In the tiny dynastic nation, the El Niño driven-phenomenon resulted in a fall in maize production, the country's staple food.

But now thanks to [ACP](#), the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, a group that was created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975, climate change impacts in African countries like Lesotho have met their match.

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