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SDGs for All - February 2018 In Retrospect

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Switzerland Joins Sustainable Development Solutions Network



By Jaya Ramachandran

BERN (IDN) – The global [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#) has launched its 25th network, SDSN Switzerland, co-hosted by the [Centre for Development and Environment](#) at the [University of Bern](#) and [BIOVISION Foundation](#), foundation for ecological development, with a view to shaping multi-stakeholder dialogue, fostering sustainable development solutions, and advising decision-makers on the implementation of the [Agenda 2030](#) and the [Paris Climate Agreement](#).

SDSN Switzerland was officially launched on February 15 with a conference under the banner 'Where Society, Science and Politics Create Solutions.' The network claims to have 19 members from key institutions around Switzerland who are committed to implementing [SDGs](#) at the local level. (P48) [GERMAN](#) | [ITALIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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UNESCAP, Islamic Development Bank Sign Landmark Agreement



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – One of the world's largest multilateral development banks, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), has launched 'Engage', a new digital platform which will promote technological and scientific solutions to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)).

IsDB President Dr. Bandar Hajjar announced on February 21 the launch of the new platform at an event hosted at Bloomberg's European Headquarters in London, together with UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](#)), Dr. Shamsah Akhtar, Dr. Hayat Sindi, Chief Scientific Advisor to IsDB, and a group

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Social Development Commission Stresses Global Goals



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – While progress has been achieved in realizing [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed has

warned that "the drop in extreme poverty remains uneven across regions, within countries and between various social groups."

Addressing the opening of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development ([CSocD56](#)), she however remarked: "At the global level, we have experienced impressive reductions in extreme poverty. Significant progress has also been made in improving access to schooling and healthcare, promoting the empowerment of women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous populations."

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Experts Stress Acceptance of Headscarf in Abrahamic Faiths



By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN) – The headscarf that sparks heated debates in Europe is a source of commonality between the three main Abrahamic religions Islam, Christianity and Judaism, according to experts who participated in a debate at the United

Nations office in Geneva.

The event on February 23 focused on: *Veiling/Unveiling: The Headscarf in Christianity, Islam and Judaism*. [The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue](#) (Geneva Centre) and the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva organized the discussion in the run-up to the 37th regular session of the [UN Human Rights Council](#) scheduled for February 26 to March 23, 2018. ([P47](#)) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [CHINESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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South Korea Urged to Keep Increasing Development Aid



By Tae Han Goo

SEOUL (IDN) – South Korea, often cited as a leading example of how sound economic policies can drive growth and development, blazing a trail from poverty to advanced industrialisation throughout the 1970s and 1980s, will have a greater impact on international development cooperation if it manages to produce a clear plan to

increase aid volumes in line with its stated ambitions, according to a new OECD Review.

All the more so because building on its reputation as a development success, the country – officially known as the Republic of Korea – now plays a highly valued role on the global stage, sharing its knowledge with others and helping to bridge the divide between developing and developed country interests.

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Equal Rights to Economic Resources Vital to Gender Equality



By Heather Wokusch*

This is the eighth and last in a series of reports on the [Vienna UN Conference](#) from January 10-12, 2018, which discussed actions and challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) and in the spirit of SDG 17. The Vienna Liaison Office of the [Academic Council on the United Nations System \(ACUNS\)](#)

organized this Conference co-ordinated by [Heather Wokusch](#). – The Editor

VIENNA (IDN) – Women across the world face discrimination in accessing economic resources. As the resulting disparity hinders a range of development goals, such as reducing poverty and improving the welfare of children, a multidisciplinary [conference at the United Nations Vienna](#) recently explored possible solutions.

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UN Turns To 'Unite Ideas' In Support Of The Global Goals



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – The United Nations is on way to improving tools available for designing sustainable development policies, and building a search engine for people working on solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for

accessing relevant knowledge on science, technology and innovation.

The UN [Office of Information and Communications Technology \(OICT\)](#) announced on February 12 that a team from the University of Southampton, a public research university in the United Kingdom, had won the Unite Ideas #SDGInsights challenge for its methodology to identify drinking water service in Liberia.

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UN Chief Warns of a Repeat of the League of Nations' Fate



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | MUNICH (IDN) – UN Secretary-General António Guterres has warned against a repeat of what happened with the League of Nations and the threat of a nuclear conflict, stressed the need for breaking the Gordian knot in the "broader Middle East", called for establishing an

international legal framework for "cyberwars between States", and asked the international community to build a consensus on regulating the "so-called

Internet of things."

Guterres was [speaking](#) at the opening ceremony of the three-day [Munich Security Conference](#) that concluded on February 18. Its motto "*To the Brink – and Back?*" seemed an apt description of the situation confronting today's world.

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Religious Leaders Plan Action Against Inciting Atrocity Crimes



By Jaya Ramachandran

VIENNA (IDN) – The United Nations has taken an important step towards preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes. More than 150 religious

leaders from around the world, member states and UN officials, gathered in Vienna to discuss the implementation of the [Plan of Action](#) launched by Secretary-General António Guterres in July 2017 at a meeting of the world body's Headquarters in New York.

Guterres said: "All religions teach respect for life and recognize human beings as fundamentally equal. These principles summon us to show respect for all human beings, even those with whom we might profoundly disagree or whose cultures might seem alien."

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Sustainable Livelihoods Behind Street Vending in Thailand



By Kalinga Seneviratne

KHAOSAN, Bangkok (IDN) – When people talk about sustainable development there is rarely any mention of the many street vendors who make a living on streets in Thailand, as across the rest of Asia.

Even attempts to stop them doing business – like the unsuccessful year-long attempt by the governor of Bangkok to clean the city's streets of street vendors – passes unnoticed in the media.

"Street vending tends to attract tourists to Bangkok, it is part of Thai lifestyle and tourists want to experience that," says Pattama Vilailert, a tourism consultant. "Some tourists come to Thailand (especially) to taste reasonable street food."
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Changing the Narrative on Violence Against Women at Home



By Helen Hemblade*

This is the seventh in a series of reports on the [Vienna UN Conference](#) from January 10-12, 2018, which discussed actions and challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goal 5 ([SDG 5](#)) and in the spirit of [SDG 17](#). The Vienna Liaison Office of the [Academic Council on the United Nations System \(ACUNS\)](#) organized this

Conference co-ordinated by [Heather Wokusch](#). – The Editor

VIENNA (IDN) – Violence against women is often considered something private that happens in people's homes, beyond help of the outside world. We take for granted that victims always have the choice to seek help. We concentrate on how this *happened* to the victim instead of *who* committed the act. We fail to address patterns in the crime's continuation.

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Women Are Being Left Behind in Spite of UN Pledge



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – Two and a half years after the international community adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which pledged not to leave any one behind, women around the world

are faced with stark inequalities and grave challenges, says a new report by [UN Women](#), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Titled *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN Women's flagship report identifies gaps and opportunities for gender equality, demonstrates through concrete evidence and data the pervasive nature of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, and puts forth actionable recommendations on how to fulfill the 2030 Agenda.

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Empowerment: A Collaborative Vision of SDG 5



By Cecilia Vera Lagomarsino*

This is the sixth in a series of reports on the [Vienna UN Conference](#) from January 10-12, 2018, which discussed actions and challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goal 5 ([SDG 5](#)) and in the spirit of [SDG 17](#). The Vienna Liaison Office of the [Academic Council on the United Nations System \(ACUNS\)](#) organized this

Conference co-ordinated by [Heather Wokusch](#). – The Editor

VIENNA (IDN) - Achieving female empowerment is imperative on a global basis, but accomplishing it remains elusive. With a collaborative vision of SDG 5, a recent [United Nations Vienna conference](#) explored crosscutting themes and potential synergies among UN organizations, the diplomatic community, civil society, NGOs, academics and business leaders.

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Refugees, Migrants Need Courageous European Leadership



Viewpoint by Idriss Jazairy

Ambassador Idriss Jazairy is the executive director of the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue and the former head of a UN specialised agency, IFAD. This article first appeared in [EURACTIV](#) on February 5, 2018 and is*



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GENEVA (IDN) – More people than ever are on the move under the centrifugal impulse of globalisation. Fifteen percent of the world's population or one billion of the Earth's seven billion people are considered as people on the move. Host developing countries or societies bear the brunt of those that flee from their homes.

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UN Calls for Keeping the Promises to the World's Poorest



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | GENEVA (IDN) – Forty-seven countries, already the world's most disadvantaged, will fall short of achieving sustainable development goals set by the United Nations in its [2030 Agenda](#) unless urgent action is taken, a new study has warned.

Recognised as least developed countries (LDCs) in UN jargon, the 47 are known to be in need of special attention from the international community. They are mostly situated in Africa South of the Sahara. *Forty of the LDCs belong, among others, to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of 79 States.* (P45) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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UN, African Union Partnership Key to Success of Peacekeeping



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – Strong partnership between the United Nations and African Union is a key to the success of peacekeeping operations of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security, particularly in view of an increasingly complex nature of conflict and the lack of progress of political processes, a consultative meeting at the

African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has stressed.

The Task Force welcomed the determination of the African Union to continue developing its compliance framework in line with the African Union Peace and Security Council communiqué of May 30, 2017.

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