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## Search For 'Hopeful Spots' As Funding Cuts Threaten UN



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | NEW YORK (IDN) – While a drastic cut in U.S. contributions is hanging like a Damocles' Sword over the head of the new UN Secretary-General António Guterres, senior Government officials and civil society representatives have stressed

the "nexus" between enduring peace and sustainable development, urging the need to raise awareness about such a link beyond the world body's headquarters in New York.

Goal 16 of the Agenda for Sustainable Development that highlights the importance of the need to "promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies" underlines such an innate bond, they say, but it has escaped wider public and diplomatic attention – one year after the United Nations started implementing [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) endorsed by 193 member states in September 2015. (P41) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION](#) PDF

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## Kashmiri Community Propagates Peace Amid Simmering Violence



By Stella Paul

KULGAM/KASHMIR, India (IDN) – Travelling along the roads of South Kashmir, you are constantly greeted by pro-liberation and anti-India slogans. They are written on the tar roads, house walls, little signboards hanging from tree branches and even lamp posts.

“Go India Go Back” and “We Want Freedom” read some; others proclaim “Burhan is Alive” or “Burhan Zindabad” – in reference to Burhan Wani, a young militant gunned down by the security forces in July 2016.

But suddenly, the slogans begin to change. Signposts and walls appear adorned with messages like “Welcome” and “Love for All, Hatred for None”. That is when you know you are in a village of the Ahmediya community. (P40) [JAPANESE](#)

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## Moroccan Campaign Not Dampening Some Migrants' Dreams



By Fabíola Ortiz

FEZ, OUJDA and NADOR, Morocco (IDN) – Morocco, traditionally a pathway for sub-Saharan Africans wanting to reach Europe, is now enforcing a national strategy to contain the flow of migrants towards the EU and stifle the aspirations of those still wanting to cross.

There are many reasons that lead people to depart from their countries and become a migrant, often risking their lives on dangerous routes in search of a better life.

Abdoul Karime is a 19-year-old Ivorian who first came to Morocco in 2013 when he was still a teenager and since then has been living amid improvised tents in an informal settlement next to the main train station in the city of Fez. (P39)

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## 'Lifestyle Diseases' Pose Grave Challenges To Africa



By Zipporah Musau\*

NEW YORK (IDN | [Africa Renewal](#)) - Anxiety grips Jennifer Nakazi as her phone beeps for the third time since she arrived at a busy bank lobby in downtown New York. She's going to wire money to her family in Uganda. Her brother is calling with the latest update on their critically ill mother.

After battling diabetes for almost a decade now, the 63-year-old matriarch has just been hospitalized after her blood sugar level hit a record high. Her blood pressure also shot up, raising fears she could also be hypertensive.

"I hope we don't lose our mother. It is not even two years since our father succumbed to diabetes. It's a difficult time for us," Ms. Nakazi tells *Africa Renewal*. She finally returns her brother's call after wiring some \$700. Their mother's condition has stabilized and they are all relieved, but they know the struggle is far from over.

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## Kazakhstan Moves Toward Democratic Development



By Devinder Kumar

NEW DELHI | ASTANA (IDN) - President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan whose commitment to international peace and security facilitated the Central Asian state's election to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member, has laid out far-reaching plans for government reforms and constitutional changes.

and constitutional changes.

The intention is "to build a more efficient, sustainable, modern system of governance" in the country which celebrated its 25th anniversary of independence from the then Soviet Union in December 2016.

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## UN and Thailand Launch 'South-South In Action' Series

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By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) has launched a publication series – 'South-South In Action' – purported

to highlight the vast reservoir of developing country experiences and how these are enhancing South-South cooperation.

The first volume of the series, jointly published by the Royal Thai Government and the UNOSSC was presented at the UN headquarters in New York on January 12, one day before the Southeast Asian country handed the annual Chair of the Group of 77 (G77) and China over to Ecuador.

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## Something is Rotten in the State of Social Equality

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By Phil Harris

ROME (IDN) - Amid persistent strong uncertainty about the global employment scenario, working poverty – particularly in emerging countries – is expected to increase as unemployment rises and the gender gap in the labour force increases.

So much for the optimism expressed when the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) were launched in September 2015 to promote "sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all" and achieve "gender equality and empower all women and girls".

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## Harnessing the Data Revolution for Achieving SDGs

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By J Nastranis

NEW YORK | CAPE TOWN (IDN) - The unprecedented scope of the UN's 2030 Agenda, with its 17 [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), calls for reliable data without which progress in implementing those goals cannot be

tracked. "We cannot achieve what we cannot measure," said Dr Pali Lehohla, South Africa's Statistician-General and head of [Statistics South Africa \(STATS SA\)](#).

STATS SA hosted the first ever [United Nations World Data Forum](#) in Cape Town from January 15 to 18, with support from the [Statistics Division](#) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), under the guidance of the [United Nations Statistical Commission](#) and the [High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for](#)

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## Bonn To Host Global Festival For Sustainable Development



By Jutta Wolf

BERLIN | BONN (IDN) – The [UN SDG Action Campaign](#), an Initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, is launching the first [Global Festival of Ideas](#) March 1-3 in Bonn with a view to ensuring the attainment of [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) by 2030.

Bonn, former West German capital in divided post-World War II Germany, hosts 22 UN secretariats, including those of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), UN Convention to Combat Desertification ([UNCCD](#)), and UN Volunteers ([UNV](#)).

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