



[Visit 'Striving for People, Planet and Peace'](#)

SDGs for All - July 2018 In Retrospect

Published by the [International Press Syndicate Group](#)
in cooperation with the [Global Cooperation Council](#)

ACP Group Striving for Interrelated Sustainable Development



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (ACP-IDN) – The [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in September

2015 at an [historic UN Summit](#) opens a new era for a repositioned African, Caribbean and Pacific Group ([ACP Group](#)) to continue and deepen its decisive role in supporting all 79 member states "to achieve the 17 SDGs as the basis for the Sustainable Development of their societies and our only home we have for humanity".

The basis and raison d'être of the ACP is development and this implies "ending poverty in all its forms everywhere" (*SDG 1*). The unity and solidarity on which the ACP is founded provides a unifying force in adopting measures to end poverty, says a policy paper.

[Read More](#)

AIDS 2018 Concludes Underlining \$6 Billion Gap In Funding



By Reinhard Jacobsen

AMSTERDAM (IDN) – Since the first cases of HIV were reported more than 35 years ago, 78 million people have become infected with HIV and 35 million have died from AIDS-related illnesses, says [UNAIDS](#), a United Nations organization that is leading the global effort since 1996 to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the

[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

According to the latest figures available, in 2017, 36.9 million people were living with HIV and 21.7 million with HIV on antiretroviral therapy. 1.8 million were newly infected with HIV in 2017.

[Read More](#)

Palestinian Peoples' Fundamental Rights Under Assault, Concern Over Lurking Dangers



By Ramesh Jaura

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – The outgoing [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, has expressed "acute concerns" over the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian

Territory, including the situation in the occupied Gaza Strip, which in recent months has escalated dramatically, with the potential to generate threats to peace across a far broader region.

His concerns were affirmed when *UN News* reported on July 24 that intense diplomatic efforts by the United Nations and Egypt had helped avoid another Israeli-Palestinian war in Gaza that appeared just "minutes away" over the previous weekend.

[Read More](#)

UN Conference Warns Of Huge Backlogs Before Achieving Global Development Goals



By Ramesh Jaura

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – Three years since the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) were adopted by the UN, at first glimpse progress seems to have been made in "transforming our world" by implementing "a plan of action for

people, planet and prosperity."

But senior UN officials admit that a closer look at what little has been achieved and the gargantuan tasks ahead to fulfil the "pledge that no one will be left behind" leave no room for complacency.

The [Group of 77 \(G-77\)](#), the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the UN – meanwhile encompassing 134 countries –also shares such reservations. (P09) [CHINESE](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN](#)

[Read More](#)

Education Isn't the Only Key to Female Employment in Morocco



Viewpoint by Katherine O'Neill*

MARRAKECH (IDN) – The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has the lowest female employment rate of anywhere in the world. Though most countries in the MENA region, including Libya and Iran, have seen gradually increasing rates of working women, Morocco's female labour force participation (FLFP) rate has actually

decreased since 1999, now sitting at 26 percent, according to [Brookings](#).

This decline not only contradicts global and regional trends, but also comes despite significant efforts both by the Moroccan government and NGOs to

increase women's education, in hopes of improving their employment opportunities. [The World Bank](#) estimates that higher FLFP rates could result in a 25 percent average increase in household income, something which would dramatically improve the lives of men, women, and youth in the region.

[Read More](#)

291 Million Youth Live With No Electricity, No Computers, No Printers – UN Laments



By Shanta Roy

NEW YORK (IDN) – When the United Nations commemorated World Youth Skills Day on July 16, there was one strong underlying theme that overshadowed the event.

Despite marked progress in the role of youth in a society increasingly characterized by high technology and artificial intelligence, the new generation, particularly in the developing world, was still lagging far behind in the fast-moving digital world.

Addressing a High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on [July 16](#), the UN's Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed pointed out a realistically depressing fact: globally, over 291 million children attend primary schools without any electricity.

[Read More](#)

Stories Behind IFAD's Focus on Africa



By Kwame Buist

ROME (IDN) – In its recently released Annual Report 2017, the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development ([IFAD](#)) – a specialised agency of the United Nations dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries – promises to leverage core resources of 1.2 billion dollars

to fund a programme of loans and grants totalling 3.5 billion dollars over the 2019-2021 period.

Ninety percent of these core resources will be allocated to low-income and lower-middle-income countries, with about 45 percent being channelled to sub-Saharan Africa, and 50 percent to Africa as a whole.

[Read More](#)

The Trafficking of Human Beings



Viewpoint by Fred Kuwornu*

NEW YORK (IDN) – The trafficking of human beings worldwide produces 150 billion dollars for the various mafias, of which 100 billion come from the trafficking of Africans. Every woman trafficked earns the Nigerian mafia 60,000 euro. Trafficking 10,000 in Italy results in 600 million euro a

year for the mafia. No African would willingly come if they knew the truth about what awaits them in Europe.

I do not want to get into the eternal Italian civil war based on factions and not content, but as an Italian of African descent and now an immigrant in the United States, I believe the time has come to talk about and treat immigration, or rather mobility, as a problem and structural phenomenon which has various levels and not as a tool for politicking or being dragged around like the disputed children of two parents who use them as a weapon of blackmail for their divorce. (P08)

[HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

[Read More](#)

Climate Change Threatens Bhutan's Development Gains



By Ramesh Jaura

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – The Buddhist kingdom Bhutan's report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development was in many ways exceptional. The holistic goal the landlocked country on the Himalayas' eastern edge has set itself is the pursuit of

Gross National Happiness (GNH).

The principal guiding philosophy behind the country's development process considers GNH "much more meaningful than economic growth alone," the Bhutanese delegation told the [HLPF 2018](#) at the UN headquarters in New York on July 17, 2018.

[Read More](#)

Asia-Pacific May Achieve Only One Out Of 17 Goals By 2030



By Ramesh Jaura

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](#)) spanning an area home to 4.1 billion people, or two thirds of the world's population, sprang a surprise when it admitted that at the current rate of progress in the region only one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#))

– Goal 4 on achieving quality education and lifelong learning – is on track to be met by 2030.

This astonishingly forthright message was delivered at the 2018 High-level Political Forum ([HLPF 2018](#)) at the UN headquarters in New York on July 16 when participants were briefed on the outcomes of the Fifth Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development ([APFSD](#)), held in Bangkok, from March 28-30, 2018 in preparation for the HLPF.

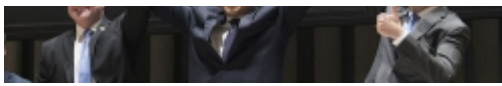
[Read More](#)

Global Compact on Migration Agreed Despite Differences



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – When Secretary-General António Guterres welcomed the agreement on an all-encompassing Global



agreement an all-encompassing Global Compact to better manage international migration, address its challenges,

strengthen migrant rights and contribute to sustainable development, calling it “a **significant achievement**” and General Assembly President Miroslav Lajčák described it as a “**historic moment**,” it was far more than a rhetorical posture aimed at giving themselves a pat on the back.

Though, the Global Compact presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework, it is the first time ever that the text of the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** has been agreed after discussions and consultations among member states, local officials, civil society and migrants themselves, spread over more than one year.

[Read More](#)

UN University Supports Iceland in Facilitating Developing Countries' Access To Geo-Energy



By Lowana Veal

REYKJAVIK (IDN) – 439 million Asians and 588 million sub-Saharan Africans lack access to electricity, according to the International Energy Authority’s **Energy Access Outlook**. The situation is worse for those living in rural areas: although 98 percent of urban Filipinos have access to electricity, this is only true for 84 percent of

rural dwellers.

Aware of what millions have to forego and such wide gaps between the urban and rural populations, the **Geothermal Training Programme of the United Nations University (UNU-GTP)**, the Government of Iceland and the National Energy Authority are assisting developing countries in capacity building for geothermal exploration and development.

[Read More](#)

UN Chief Asks Melinda Gates and Ali Baba's Jack Ma To Head Digital Experts Panel



By J Nastranis

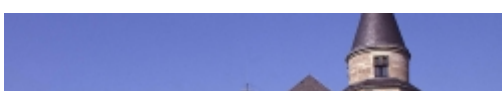
NEW YORK (IDN) – Noting that “the scale, spread and speed of change made possible by digital technologies is unprecedented, but the current means and levels of international cooperation are unequal to the

challenge,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres has announced the launch of a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

As Guterres told reporters at the UN Headquarters in New York on July 12, this is the first such Panel of its kind. It is comprised of women and men at the frontiers of technology, public policy, science, and academia.

[Read More](#)

UN Summer Academy Brings 2030 Development Agenda To Life



By Rita Joshi

BONN (IDN) – In 2015, countries from



Paris Agreement on climate change entered into force, addressing the need to limit the rise of global temperatures.

around the world adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. In November 2016, the

Since January 2016, governments, businesses and civil society together with the United Nations have been mobilizing efforts to achieve the SDGs. Meanwhile 12 years are left for the 2030 Agenda goals to become a reality. The UN Summer Academy in Bonn is offering an engaging five-day programme from August 27 to August 31, 2018 aimed at 'Bringing the 2030 Agenda to life'.

[Read More](#)

Worldwide Shipping Could Jeopardise Climate Goals



By Sean Buchanan

LONDON (IDN) – Worldwide, shipping contributes an estimated 2.5 percent of global emissions, but left unchecked this could grow to 17 percent by 2050, warns **Transparency International** – an international non-governmental organisation based in Berlin.

Failure to dramatically reduce the sector's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, says the NGO, will jeopardise the pledges signed by 195 states in the **Paris Agreement**, which aims to limit planetary warming to "well below" 2°C, and ideally to no more than 1.5°C.

[Read More](#)

Unrestricted Economic Welfare Menaces Human Well Being



By Rita Joshi

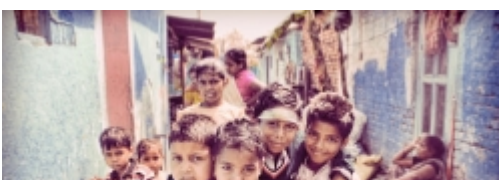
BERLIN (IDN) – The **Sustainable Development Goals** and the **Paris climate agreement** set the target of prosperous development for people and our planet. Yet, it remains challenging to translate these

aims into concrete policy implementations without risking human welfare and the Earth ecosystem.

A new climate study argues that optimizing economic welfare without constraints might put human well being at risk. While being successful in bringing down costs of greenhouse gas reductions for instance, the concept of profit maximization alone does not suffice to avoid the tipping of critical elements in the Earth system, which could lead to dramatic changes of our livelihoods.

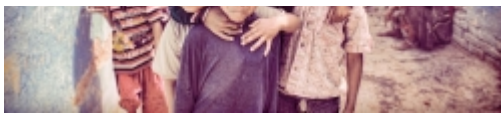
[Read More](#)

The Poverty Trap Has Deadly Consequences



By J W Jackie

RENO, Nevada, United States (IDN) – The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out a global pathway to



end inequality and improve the health of the world. [The SDG agenda sets out the case](#) very clearly that trade, healthcare, gender inequality, poverty, disease,

environmental protection and a range of other key goals are all inextricably linked.

Therefore, those seeking to deliver the SDG agenda by reducing trade inequalities and boosting regional development will do well to keep in mind just how interconnected and far-reaching the SDGs are. [JAPANESE](#)

[Read More](#)

India Supports Sustainable Development Through UN Tax Fund



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – India has provided a voluntary contribution of US \$100,000 to encourage the participation of developing countries in the work of a key UN committee on tax matters tasked with finding ways of mobilizing resources for sustainable development.

This is the second year India has contributed to the [UN Tax Trust Fund](#) and is still the only country that has funded so far. The Fund aims to support the work of the UN Tax Committee.

[Read More](#)

Lao Women Village Weavers Pursue Moderate Livelihoods



By Toung Eh Synuanchanh

This article is the 24th in a series of joint productions of [Lotus News Features](#) and [IDN-InDepthNews](#), flagship of the [International Press Syndicate](#).

BUNGSANTHUENG, Laos (IDN) – The consciousness of finite resource and traditional wisdom are inspiring a group of women in the Southeast Asian country to pursue business practices based on the Buddhist concept of Right Livelihood, the art of responsible and sustainable living.

The women weavers of *Ban Bungsanthueng*, Nongbok District, Khammouane Province of Laos – about 400 km south of the capital Vientiane – have formed a women handicraft group that draws upon longstanding traditional and cultural knowledge of *sard-phue* (reed mat) weaving.

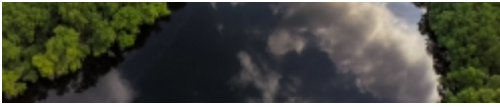
[Read More](#)

Forests Comprise Large Part of Climate Solution But Receive Meagre Investment



By Fabiola Ortiz

OSLO (IDN) – It has been a decade now that the mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation – known as [REDD+](#) – has been included in climate negotiations, however investments



have not been sufficient for bringing them down.

“Even though science tells us that forests represent thirty percent of the solution to climate change in terms of the mitigation potential of greenhouse gas emission, we are only spending less than two percent of climate finance on forest,” according to senior fellow Frances Seymour of the World Resources Institute (WRI). (P07) [JAPANESE TEXT](#) [VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SPANISH](#)

[Read More](#)

Published by

The [International Press Syndicate](#) Group

as part of a [media project](#) with Soka Gakkai International

750 Third Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA

33 Lafferty Street, Toronto, ONT M9C5B5, CANADA

Marienstrasse 19/20, 10117 Berlin, GERMANY

Ichimura bldg. 4F, 3-2 Kanda Ogawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo JAPAN 101-0052

[Unsubscribe](#)