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SDGs for All - June 2019 In Retrospect

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Tunisia Forces Bangladeshi Migrants to Return Home



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network
New York (IDN) – A shipload of desperate Bangladeshi migrants was told to turn the boat around and go home by Tunisian officials or be deprived of food, water and medicines. The migrants, trapped on a merchant ship off Tunisia for three weeks, were sent back to their home country

against their will, according to relatives.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), an intergovernmental organization linked to the United Nations, said the Bangladeshis “wished to return home”.

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Climate Change Finds Its Way to the 'Rooftop' in Tajikistan



By Alisher Kukanbekov*

PAMIR, Tajikistan (IDN) – The great mountains of Pamir that have been known as the ‘Roof of the World’ over the centuries is now falling victim to climatic change. One of the largest glaciers here, Garmo glacier, has retreated by a staggering 7 kilometers in the past few decades with the annual mean temperatures recording an upwards

trend over the past decade.

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The Pillaging of Mineral Resources Leaves Behind Poverty Holes for Africans



By Jeffrey Moyo

HARARE (IDN) – More than a decade ago, he lost his home as diamond miners from China razed it to the ground searching for the gems. Still, today, 74-year old Tobias Mukwada lives with his family in shanty thatched huts they erected hoping that perhaps one day the Chinese diamond merchants would remember them and offer

them a decent home.

But for the poverty-stricken Mukwada and his family, it may be a wait in vain.

Zimbabwe's former president Robert Mugabe ordered Chinese diamond miners out of the mining fields in the country's eastern highlands in 2016. (P11)

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European Union Lambasted for 'Externalising' Migration Policy



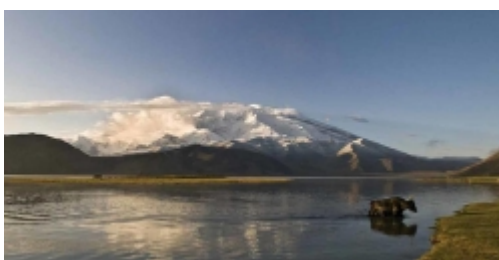
By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (IDN) – More than twenty African and international organizations have signed a letter which slates the European Union and its member states for externalizing migration policy through direct and indirect cooperation with regimes and militia forces that are utterly unaccountable

for their actions, and violating its constitutional values and international obligations, including the responsibility to protect.

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Pressing Need to Put Degraded Lands Back to Life



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | ANKARA (IDN) – Profoundly concerned that "desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world," the international community adopted the Convention to Combat Desertification

(UNCCD) in Paris on June 17, 1994. Twenty-five years later, on the World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) on June 17 celebrated this year in the Turkish capital Ankara, the 'Hama Arba Diallo Foundation for the Environment and Education' has been launched at a special event.

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World Population Expected to Reach Nearly 10 Billion by 2050



Yet Another Challenge to Global Goals

By Jaya Ramachandran

NEW YORK (IDN) – Compared to 7.7 billion today, around 8.5 billion people are

expected to inhabit the planet Earth within little more than a decade, and almost 10 billion by 2050, with only a few countries accounting for most of the increase, says to new United Nations report. [The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights](#), published by the Population Division of the [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(UN DESA\)](#), provides a comprehensive overview of global demographic patterns and prospects. The study concludes that the world's population could reach its peak around the end of the current century, at a level of nearly 11 billion. (P10) [CHINESE](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SWAHILI](#)

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African Governments Join Activists to Fight Sextortion



By Kizito Makoye

DAR ES SALAAM (IDN) – A poster bearing a message “Graduate with A’s not with AIDS” at the University of Dar es Salaam, tells a grim story of female students who offer sex to obtain higher grades.

“My teacher wanted to date me. When I refused his sexual advances, he retaliated by giving me poor grades,” says Helena (not her real name).

The 23-year-old law student, who has since experienced dismal performance in her studies, is increasingly worried about her academic future. (P09) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SWAHILI](#)

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Low-income Countries Ensuring Liquidity as the UN Faces Financial Crisis



By J Nastranis

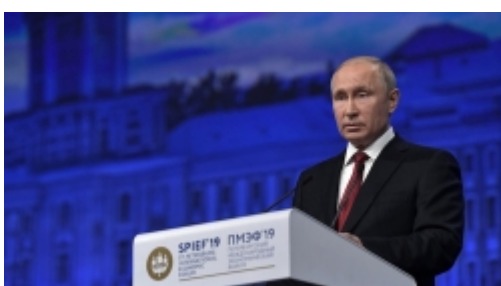
NEW YORK (IDN) – The United Nations is at risk of running out of cash, Secretary-General António Guterres warned in a letter to UN staff in July 2018 and stated that he had “written to Member States regarding the

troubling financial situation facing the United Nations”. The situation has not changed for the better since.

In fact, nearly one year later, the situation is preventing the Organization from reimbursing troop- and police-contributing countries in a predictable and timely manner, hindering their ability to provide lifesaving support to peacekeeping operations, Guterres cautioned on June 4, 2019.

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SDGs Offer Russia New Opportunities in Africa



By Kester Kenn Klomegah

MOSCOW (IDN) – The [St. Petersburg International Economic Forum \(SPIEF-19\)](#) that brought together thousands of foreign delegates, including those from Africa, prioritized “sustainable development” as the key theme. It offered an opportunity to

discuss in-depth the significance, challenges and prospects of sustainable development, and cooperation among state institutions and businesses as well as between countries in achieving the global development goals endorsed by world leaders in September 2015 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

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Urgent Action Needed to Scale-up Energy Access in LDCs



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK | BEIJING (IDN) – The world's 47 least developed countries (LDCs) will fail to achieve global sustainable energy targets by 2030 unless urgent and enhanced action is undertaken. This was the backdrop to discussions which took place on May 30-31, 2019 at a United Nations conference on

'Scaling-Up Energy Access and Finance in the Least Developed Countries' in Beijing, China.

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UN Study Urges a More Gender-Equal Digital Space



Flays Feminization of Voice Assistants

By Rita Joshi

BERLIN | PARIS (IDN) – "I think if we wake up 20 years from now and we see the lack

of diversity in our tech and leaders and practitioners [that we see today], that would be my doomsday scenario," said Li Fei-Fei, co-director of Stanford University's Human-Centered AI Institute and one of the few female leaders in the field of Artificial Intelligence, during testimony to the U.S. Congress.

Sounding alarm about the dearth of diversity in AI development, she added: "There's nothing artificial about AI. It's inspired by people, and – most importantly – it impacts people. . . . [The deep learning systems that undergird AI are] bias in, bias out."

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Female Solar Engineers Light Up Remote Villages in Zanzibar



By Kizito Makoye

KENDWA, Tanzania (IDN) – As darkness falls, Natasha Mahmood and her brother huddle around the weak flame of a paraffin lamp, rushing to finish their homework before their mother blows it out to save fuel.

"I often try to get it done early. But that's not always the case. My teacher sometimes punishes me for failing to complete my work," says Mahmood, as a trail of smoke from the lamp rises into a corrugated roof smirched with soot. (P08) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SWAHILI](#)

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Volunteering Kicks Up a Notch in Kenya



By J W Jackie

RENO, Nevada, USA (IDN) – One of the biggest cross-nation collaborations currently, is between the European Union and Kenya. This unusual pairing provides Kenya with the resources to implement development strategies with a [Sh8 billion line of credit](#) (USD 78.922.800,00) from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

While the loan is earmarked for the private sector to improve development, there is a definite need for support in all areas to make these funds go even further. One of the [biggest cost items for any development project](#) is labour. While paid labour will still be a component, a large form of relief is through skilled volunteers.

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Call for Renewed Efforts to Resolve Asian Maritime Dispute



Viewpoint by Rene Wadlow, President, [Association of World Citizens](#)

GENEVA (IDN) – June 8 has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the [World Oceans Day](#) to

highlight the important role that the United Nations has played in creating the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#).

Nevertheless there are maritime delimitation disputes that are currently dangerous and require good-faith negotiations to prevent increased tensions. World Citizens have played an important role in the [Law of the Sea Conference](#) (UNCLOS) negotiations and in the creation of the [International Seabed Authority](#) and its Tribunal on maritime deliberation issues.

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Protect Pristine Areas from Relentless Development



Viewpoint by Dominick A. DellaSala, William J. Ripple and Franz Baumann

This article was first published in [San Francisco Examiner](#) on May 29, 2019. While Dominick A. DellaSala, Ph.D., is chief scientist for the [Geos Institute in Ashland](#), William J. Ripple, Ph.D., is a distinguished professor of ecology at Oregon State University and the initiator of the [Alliance of](#)

World Scientists. Franz Baumann, Ph.D., is a former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and a visiting research professor at New York University. – *The Editor*

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Unlocking Emotional Intelligence to Achieve Global Goals



By Santo D. Banerjee



NEW YORK (IDN) – A vibrant and diverse network of students, academics, scientists, researchers, think tanks, and institutions of higher education around the world, serve as incubators of new ideas, inventions and solutions to diverse global challenges, and are therefore vital to achieving the

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

The United Nations Academic Impact ([UNAI](#)), says its Chief, Ramu Damodaran, aligns these institutions with the United Nations in supporting and contributing to the realization of the Organization's goals and mandates, including the promotion and protection of human rights, access to education, sustainability and conflict resolution.

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