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## Humanitarian Summit in Perspective: Falling Short of Lofty Expectations



Analysis by Rodney Reynolds

ISTANBUL (IDN) - The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proposed as far back as 2012, failed to meet its lofty expectations despite four years of consultations with 23,000 people in over 150 countries.

“This is a 21st century United Nations gathering,” Ban boasted to delegates in his opening remarks. But the two-day summit, which concluded May 24, did not generate any significant funding nor did it receive the whole-hearted political support of the UN’s Big Five – the UK, U.S., France, China and Russia – whose leaders were conspicuous by their absence.

Besides UK, U.S. and France, even the remaining G-7 leaders were missing in action: heads of government from Canada, Italy and Japan shied away from the summit. Only German Chancellor Angela Merkel was in Istanbul to represent the world’s seven industrialized democracies. (P11) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION](#)  
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## Indigenous Peoples Insist on Equality of All Rights



Analysis by Rizwy Raheem

NEW YORK (IDN) – The world’s indigenous peoples – estimated at over 370 million living across 90 countries and accounting for 15 percent of the poorest – remain isolated, both politically and geographically.

So, nearly a thousand participants from Asia, Africa, North America, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean gathered together to air their grievances before the United Nations at a two-week long conference, which concluded May 20.

conference, which concluded May 20.

Their plea for inclusiveness was a reiteration of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's appeal to the international community on the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a more humane and prosperous world for all – "leaving no one behind". (P10) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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## Bangladesh Taking Action to Mitigate Potentially 'Catastrophic' Climate Change

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Analysis by Naimul Haq

BHOLA (IDN) - Bangladesh is one of the world's countries worst affected by the global warming impact of climate change caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – extreme weather events such tropical cyclones, severe floods, rainstorms and river erosion, extreme heat waves and unexpected droughts on vast stretches of land are on the rise.

The country's coastal regions face a rising sea level, higher tides and saline water intrusion which is already encroaching further inland and destroying agricultural opportunities.

The effect of greenhouse gas emissions along Bangladesh's coast is already evident and experts predict it could be "catastrophic" if appropriate action is not taken now. (P09) [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#) | [URDU](#)

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## South Pacific Seeks Action to Solve Climate "Terror" Not of Its Making

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Analysis by Kalinga Seneviratne

BANGKOK (IDN) – Pointing out that three tiny South Pacific nations – Kiribati, Tuvalu and Marshal islands – are "destined to slip below the waves altogether", feisty Fijian Prime Minister Josaia Bainimarama has appealed to the international community to help Fiji and the other South Pacific island

states build resilience to the impact of climatic change, which he described as the "terror of the extreme weather events".

Addressing the opening of the 72nd UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) sessions (May 17-19) as outgoing chair, Bainimarama said: "History will judge the industrial nations very harshly if they leave small and vulnerable nations to their fate without extending the appropriate helping hand. We have not caused global warming. They have." (P08)

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## Asian UN Body Calls for Paradigm Shift in Development Thinking

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Analysis by Kalinga Seneviratne

BANGKOK (IDN) - The major United



Nations agency overseeing development in the Asia-Pacific region has called for a major rethink in the development paradigm for the region.

In an 'Economic and Social Survey' of the region presented to its 72nd sessions here from May 17 to 19, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](#)) says that while the centre of global economic gravity continues to move eastwards, the time has come for the Asia-Pacific region to adopt a development model that relies more on domestic and regional demand.

Arguing that it is futile to continue the exclusive reliance on export-led development, ESCAP is also calling for more rural agriculture and industrial development, with better rural-urban connectivity via transport and communication links. (P07) [HINDI](#) | [INDONESIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TAGALOG](#) | [THAI](#) | [URDU](#)

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## Africans Vow to Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization

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Analysis by Jeffrey Moyo

HARARE (IDN) - The third Pan African Capacity Development Forum organized by the [African Capacity Building Foundation \(ACBF\)](#), in partnership with the organisation's Pan-African and international partners, has vowed to boost industry together with infrastructure, in order to promote inclusive and sustainable

industrialization and foster innovation in line with the ninth goal of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As such, the organisation says it has invested more than \$1 billion, building institutions in 45 countries on the African continent and supporting regional economic communities as well as continental organisations.

The SDGs were built on the eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015, dubbed the Millennium Development Goals. (P06) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SWAHILI](#)

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## UN Concerned Over Implementation of Development Goals

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By J C Suresh

TORONTO (IDN) - Less than five months since the official coming into force of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in January, United Nations has warned that persistent weak global growth is posing a challenge to achieving the target to end all

forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Economic activity in the world economy remains lacklustre, with little prospect for a turnaround in 2016, says the United Nations *World Economic Situation and Prospects* as of mid-2016 report.

Launching the mid-year report at United Nations Headquarters in New York,

Lenni Montiel, Assistant Secretary-General in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([DESA](#)) said: “The report underscores the need for a more balanced policy mix to rejuvenate global growth and create an enabling environment to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

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## UN Launches Global Awareness Campaign on Climate Action

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By Rita Joshi

BONN (IDN | [UNFCCC](#)) - In run-up to 2016 UN Climate Conference in Morocco, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) is focusing on ‘Global South’, and has launched a global public awareness campaign to spotlight these game-changing commitments, including the many which are happening in the developing world.

According to the UNFCCC, based in former West German capital Bonn, climate action by cities and companies and by regions and investors is continuing strongly since the December 2015 Paris climate change conference with some 50 new actions posted on the UN portal which was set up to showcase private sector and local authority ambition.

Ranging from South African hospitals group Netcare Ltd to Dutch banking group ING, the new commitments join over 11,000 already registered on [NAZCA](#) -- the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action, established in 2014 at the request of the Government of Peru.

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## G77 Wants More in South-South Cooperation in Climate Change

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Analysis by J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) - The Group of 77 ([G77](#)) and China, comprising 134 developing nations, has welcomed a new United Nations initiative that will build partnerships to help developing countries to assist other developing countries implement the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030

Development Agenda.

But the G77 and China chairperson Virachai Plasai, Thailand’s Permanent Representative to the UN, has stressed that “South-South and Triangular Cooperation are not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South Cooperation”.

He added: “As South-South and Triangular cooperation are dear to the heart of the Group, we wish to see the momentum created by this initiative to promote South-South and Triangular cooperation be carried forward in other important areas apart from climate change.”

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## Enabling Civil Society to Monitor Development Agenda

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By Jutta Wolf

BERLIN (IDN) - Strategies to support and protect civil society to engage in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030

 Agenda for Sustainable Development were the centerpiece of discussions at a conference in Berlin.

Jeffery Huffines, UN Representative of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, questioned the extent of civil society engagement in preparation of the first set of voluntary national reviews to be presented at the High-level Political Forum (HPLF) on Sustainable Development July 11-20. He stressed the 2030 Agenda's participation rights should be used to open up spaces for civil society at the regional and national levels.

HPLF is UN's central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 26, 2015.

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