



# SDGs for All



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## SDGs for All - March 2018 In Retrospect

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Women Farmers in Africa Fight Climate Change Impact, UN Pushes for Gender Equality in War-Torn in Afghanistan, and Many More

### Women Farmers in Africa Fight Impact of Climate Change



By Ronald Joshua

NEW YORK | BAMAKO (IDN) – Fatou Dembele is a farmer in landlocked Mali, where half of the population engaged in agriculture are women. Agriculture is a key sector to lift women out of poverty. But the increasing degradation of land and natural resources caused by climate change is making women more vulnerable.

Therefore when Dembele's plants first started dying, she thought the plot of land was ruined, and her livelihood was at risk. "We thought the land was sick. We didn't know that there were live parasites that attacked the roots of the plants and could kill them," says Dembele. (P50) [FRENCH](#) | [INDONESIAN](#) | [ITALIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SPANISH](#) | [SWAHILI](#) | [TURKISH](#)

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### Under-representation of Women in UN System is Mendable



By Fausia Abdoel\*

VIENNA (IDN) – Women are under-represented at the managerial and leadership levels within the United Nations system. The world body intends to mend this situation and achieve gender parity at all levels by 2028.

But indications are that it's going to be an uphill task. Statistics published by [UN Women](#), the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, show that at the current average annual increment from the P-3 to upper-

managerial levels it would take on average 22 years to achieve gender parity in all United Nations agencies. In line with the status of gender parity at a global scale it will take 217 years.

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## Why Eye Care is Important – for Bangladesh and Other Countries



By Naimul Haq

DHAKA (IDN) – John Bob Ranck, also known as Bob, Chief Executive Officer and President at [Orbis International](#), recently visited Bangladesh on a special mission. He travelled to some of the hospitals where Orbis as a partner has been supporting Bangladesh's efforts in addressing avoidable blindness.

Bob, a retired United States Air Force Brigadier General, came to Bangladesh a few weeks after the memorable visit of the teaching hospital or better known as the Flying Eye Hospital's (FEH) training programme in Bangladesh. (P49) [FRENCH](#) | [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [TURKISH](#) | [URDU](#)

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## G20 Urged to Root Out Corruption in State-Owned Enterprises



By Sean Buchanan

LONDON (IDN) – One of the many challenges facing today's world is corruption and one sector in which this is particularly evident is that of state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

Controlled by national governments, SOEs rank among the largest companies in the world, often serving as some of the biggest employers in their country. They are central to the daily lives of citizens, providing critical goods and public services in sectors such as transport, utilities, telecommunications and health. If they are corrupt, the impact filters down to all aspects of society.

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## UN Pushes for Gender Equality in War-Torn Afghanistan



By Devinder Kumar

NEW DELHI | KABUL (IDN) – The [UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#) has documented that, in 2017, 359 women were killed – five per cent more than in the previous year – and 865 injured. Altogether about 10,000 civilians lost their lives or suffered injuries in 2017.

It is against this backdrop that the UN in Afghanistan marked International Women's Day on March 8, recognizing the global movement for women's rights and the work of activists who have been central to the push for gender equality.

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## Infrastructural Boom Spreads Across Southern Africa



By Jeffrey Moyo

HARARE (IDN) – Waving a red cloth tied to a stick while signalling vehicles to stop, 35-year old Denford Muzvidziwa who dons blue overalls and a white helmet, joyfully busies himself on the Harare-Mutare highway which is still being upgraded.

For over a decade after he completed a degree in Social Work at the University of Zimbabwe, Muzvidziwa has never found a formal job that suits his qualification, but he is happy with his new found job in the construction sector, saying the job nevertheless earns him some bit of money to caution him in the face of this country's fledgling economy.

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## Structural Reform Needed to Ensure Brazil's Inclusive Growth



By Sean Buchanan

LONDON (IDN) – Brazil is emerging from its long recession and is headed for solid growth in 2018 and 2019 as recent structural reforms start to bear fruit, but the country still has some way to go.

The mixed outlook comes in the latest [OECD Economic Survey of Brazil](#) which notes that sustaining this recovery, unleashing Brazil's full economic potential and spreading the benefits fairly will require additional efforts to rein in public spending, increase trade and investment, and further focus social spending on those most in need.

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## To Achieve Gender Equality, We Need Women Entrepreneurs



Viewpoint by Shamshad Akhtar

*Dr. Shamshad Akhtar is the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).*

BANGKOK (IDN) – In 2018, we have an opportunity to accelerate progress towards gender equality. Movements such as

#MeToo have shone the spotlight on an unacceptable status quo and demonstrated how too many women the world over continue to be deprived of respect and equal opportunities. Let's use International Women's Day to build on this global momentum for change and suggest targeted solutions to empower women across our economies and societies. Women entrepreneurs have a key role to play.

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## New South Africa President Endorses Land Transfers to Blacks



By Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – Barely a month into his presidency, Cyril Ramaphosa has taken sides on a hot button issue whose resolution had eluded previous leaders. He vowed to speed up the seizure of land from white owners and turn the properties over to blacks.

"This original sin that was committed when our country was colonized must be resolved in a way that will take South Africa forward," he declared.

The resolution calling for expropriation without compensation was introduced by the self-described radical and militant [Economic Freedom Fighters](#) (EFF), and passed 241 votes in agreement, and 83 votes against.

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## 'Unequal Realities' Hold Back Rural Women, Says UN On Eve of Women's Confab



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – In the run up to International Women's Day on March 8, the United Nations is renewing its call for concrete actions to address the plight of rural women who make up over a quarter of

the world population yet are being left behind in every measure of development.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day is: "[Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives](#)". This will also be the focus of the 62nd session of the [UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW62) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 12 to 23.

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## UN at Pains to Weed Out Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



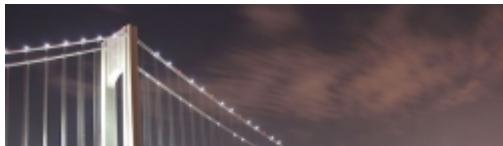
By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – At a critical moment when allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse from within the United Nations are mounting, and a leaked UN [staff survey](#) shows fears over whistleblowing and ethical accountability, Secretary-General António

Guterres has in his [message](#) for International Women's Day on March 8, called for the UN setting "an example for the world," adding: "I recognize that this has not always been the case."

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## A Compelling Book on 'Humanity's Success in Ruining Nature'



NEW YORK (IDN) – Across the globe, geologists, climate scientists, biologists, chemists, physicists are alarmed, and if there are uncertainties these are whether



danger is in the offing very soon or in a few years; about whether our prospects are calamitous or only troublesome.

The lack of dread among the general public about the risks of irreversible damage is worrying. Politics and Science operate on different time lines and with different urgencies. The open question is if the governments of the world's dozen or so wealthiest countries are up to organizing a workable, equitable and sustainable global response before it is too late.

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## Striving to Build a Broader Support for the Nuclear Ban Treaty



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | TOKYO (IDN) – The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in April and the UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in May will draw the focus of the international community in the coming weeks as it moves toward paving the way for a nuclear-weapons free world.

Since the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#) was adopted in July 2017, "these will be the first venues for debate and deliberation that will include both the nuclear-weapon and nuclear-dependent states," says eminent Buddhist philosopher [Daisaku Ikeda](#), founder and President of Soka Gakkai International ([SGI](#)) with 12 million members in 192 countries and regions.

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### Published by

[The International Press Syndicate Group](#)

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

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