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## SDGs for All - November 2018 In Retrospect

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Articles in this monthly newsletter  
can also be found on our news website [IDN-InDepthNews](#).

## New Study Calls for USD 2.3 Billion Support to ACP Countries



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (ACP-IDN) – A new study finds that the 79-nation African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Group of States can boost climate action with technical and financial support amounting to a minimum of USD 2,317 billion. Capacity building, an important aspect of efforts to halt climate catastrophe, is expected to draw considerable attention at the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland.

The urgency of climate action is underlined also by the [new report](#) released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It shows that global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions rose again during 2017 after a three-year break, highlighting the imperative for countries to deliver on the historic [Paris Agreement](#) to keep global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

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## ACP Fights Human Trafficking, Migrant Smuggling in Africa



By Jeffrey Moyo

BEITBRIDGE (ACP-IDN) – At the age of 39, Ndikonyaga Muleya hailing from Beitbridge, Zimbabwe's border town with South Africa, has found illegal crossing into South Africa convenient.

Over the years he became experienced crossing into the neighboring country looking for casual jobs in Musina, also a South African border town with Zimbabwe, which he now frequents as an illegal transporter of undocumented Zimbabweans itching to cross into South Africa fleeing from this country's mounting economic woes.

“I earn money from transporting people through unmanned crossing points into South Africa. I was also helped before when I started crossing to SA,” Muleya told IDN.

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## Asia-Pacific Reviews Ambitious Targets of 1994 Cairo Conference



Viewpoint by Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana and Natalia Kanem

*Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Dr. Natalia Kanem is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United*

*Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).*

BANGKOK (IDN) – Ministers and senior policymakers across Asia and the Pacific are gathered in Bangkok up to November 28 to focus on population dynamics at a crucial time for the region. Their goal: to keep people and rights at the heart of the region’s push for sustainable development. They will be considering how successful we have been in balancing economic growth with social imperatives, underpinned by rights and choices for all as enshrined in the landmark Programme of Action stemming from the [1994 International Conference on Population and Development](#), or ICPD.

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## Women Medics Pitch for Effective Role in Decision Making on Health Issues



By Justus Wanzala

NAIROBI (IDN) – Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is crucial in attainment of not only health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) but also all SDGs.

Participants in the [Medical Women’s International Association \(MWIA\) Regional Conference 2018](#), that was held in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, from November 11-15, noted that achieving UHC can aid in tackling the growing disease burden and extreme poverty in African countries and other poor nations.

Christine Sadia, President of [Kenya Medical Women's Association \(KMWA\)](#) said governments, policy makers, donors and development partners should not waver in supporting women’s health issues with the aim of alleviating problems that face women and girls across the globe.

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## Blue Economy Conference: Kenya Keen to Stimulate Global Conversations and Partnerships



By Jaya Ramachandran

NEW YORK | NAIROBI (IDN) – The first ever [Sustainable Blue Economy Conference](#)



ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) opens on November 26 in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. Canada and Japan are co-hosts of the three-day landmark event.

It builds on the momentum of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris and the UN Ocean Conference 2017 'Call for Action'.

Kenya proudly calls the Conference its 'Global First'. [JAPANESE](#)

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## UN Reviews Education Programme on Slave Trade, Warns of Racism



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – [The Ark of Return](#) by Rodney Leon, an American architect of Haitian descent, at the UN Headquarters in New York honours the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade that was perpetrated for over 400 years.

The permanent memorial was erected on March 25, 2015 – the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The Day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice manifesting itself in racial discrimination in the hands of populists in several European countries and the U.S. [JAPANESE](#)

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## Wanted a Geographically Diverse and Gender-balanced UN



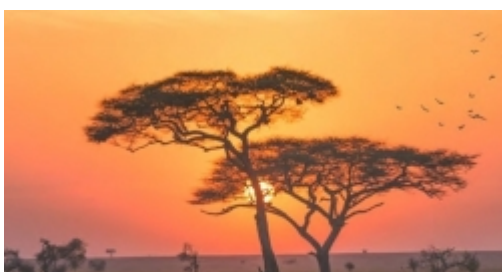
Viewpoint by Karim Ismail on behalf of G-77

*The following are extensive extracts from the [statement](#) on behalf of the "Group of 77", comprising 134 member countries including China, by Karim Ismail, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations, at the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) of the UN*

*General Assembly on 15 November 2018, urging the Secretariat to ensure that the world body's staff reflects equitable geographic representation, as more women and young people are hired to shape a dynamic Organization with a mobile and multitalented workforce. – The Editor*

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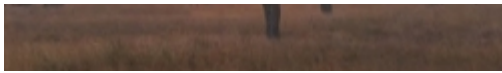
## EU-ACP Initiative Leads to Natural Disaster Risk Reduction



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (ACP-IDN) – The African, Caribbean and Pacific-European Union Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program ([ACP-EU NDRR](#)) launched in 2011 has worked to build climate and disaster resilience in ACP countries, where the





impacts of climate change are increasingly visible, says a new report.

The Program is an initiative of the [African Caribbean Pacific \(ACP\)](#) Group of States, in partnership with the European Union (EU), and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery ([GFDRR](#)).

According to the [Activity Report 2017-2018](#) for Fiscal Year 18 (1 July 2017-30 June 2018), development stakeholders, governments, and civil society organizations have become increasingly aware of the importance of partnerships in meeting these challenges.

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## The Cambodian-UN War Crimes Trials are Finally Over

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Viewpoint by Jonathan Power\*

LUND, Sweden (IDN-INPS) – Finally, finally, the over-long, ten year trials of the leaders of the murderous Khmer Rouge leadership of Cambodia, are over. The two defendants, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, were each given a life sentence at the end of the first trial in August 2015 for crimes against humanity. Now they have been convicted of

genocide.

Of the other three that were tried, one, the ex-foreign minister, Ieng Sary died in 2013, one, Ieng Thirith, the wife of Ieng Sary, was too ill with Alzheimer's to appear and one, Kaing Guek Eav ("Duch"), voluntarily confessed three years ago and was sent to jail for 35 years.

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## Governments Unable to Take Climate Responsibility Seriously

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Viewpoint by Roberto Savio

*The writer is publisher of [Other News](#), a vehicle for "voices against the tide", and founder of [IPS-Inter Press Service News Agency](#). This article is being reproduced courtesy of [Other News](#) with the writer's permission. He can be contacted at [utopia@robertosavio.info](mailto:utopia@robertosavio.info) and his articles and comments can be read on Facebook [@robertosavioutopia](#)*

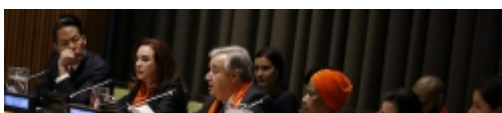
ROME (IDN) – With any high-sounding pledges that have been made to combat climate change remaining empty words, it is now clear that we have lost the battle to keep the planet as we have known it.

Now while this can, of course, be considered my own personal opinion, devoid of objectivity, I intend to offer some data, history and facts to give substance to this opinion.

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## UN Kicks Off 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

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By Caroline Mwanga

NEW YORK (IDN) – Worldwide movements and corporate walk outs have exposed the



and corporate walk-outs have exposed the magnitude of violence against women and girls and highlighted how often such violence is normalized. Research shows that violence against women and girls affects **one in three** women worldwide and

that no country is immune to this pandemic. Yet instead of holding perpetrators accountable, women and girls who experience violence are often blamed and their testimonies systematically called into question.

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## UN Inching Towards Peace Talks on Yemen



By J Nastranis

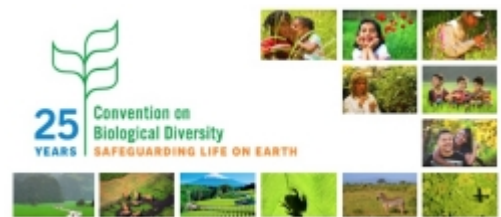
*Fourteen million civilians are on the edge of famine in Yemen. Starvation is on the horizon, warns WFP's chief David Beasley. What he has seen during a recent visit to the country is "the stuff of nightmares, horror, deprivation and misery". UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy Martin*

*Griffiths is therefore at pains to bring the conflict parties to a negotiating table. "We as women have the highest stake in peace," vows civil society leader Rasha Jarhum.*

NEW YORK (IDN) – Yemen is no longer "the forgotten war" that it has long been, Special Envoy for the UN Secretary-General, Martin Griffiths has told the 15-nation Security Council. This is underlined, among others, by the fact that the United Nations plans to convene peace talks on Yemen soon after receiving firm assurances from the conflict parties that they will attend negotiations in Sweden.

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## Conserving Biodiversity is Key to Mitigating Climate Change



By J C Suresh

TORONTO (IDN) – An area almost the size of Australia – up to 724 million hectares in all – will be required by 2050 for cultivating bioenergy, according to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Platform on

Climate Change (IPCC) on limiting climate warming to 1.5C.

Models foresee that demand for bioenergy to reduce CO2 emissions from fossil fuels could cause a 10- to 30-fold increase in green energy-related land use in years to come, adding crushing pressure on habitat for plants and animals and undermining the essential diversity of species on Earth.

But where would this land come from? Is there currently such a large amount of 'marginal land' available or would this compete with biodiversity?

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## Slum Dwellers in 79 ACP Countries Draw the Focus



By Robert Johnson

BRUSSELS (ACP-IDN) – Transforming ACP cities, leaving no one behind engaging in large scale investments in slums is the

central theme of the three-day [3rd ACP-EC-UN-Habitat International Tripartite Conference](#) in Brussels, headquarters of the European Union and the capital of Belgium.

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States ([ACP](#)) is an organisation composed of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states: 48 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific. All of them, save Cuba, are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement, also known as the "ACP-EC Partnership Agreement" which binds them to the European Union.

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## [Aral Sea Promises to Rise Like Phoenix from the 'Ashes'](#)



By Radwan Jakeem

NEW YORK (IDN) - The zone of destruction created as a consequence of what has been called "one of the planet's worst environmental disasters" has long crossed the frontiers of Central Asia, demanding urgent measures from the international

community.

Every year more than 150 million tons of toxic dust from the bottom of the dried up Aral Sea are carried long distances by the wind to the people in Asia, Europe and even the thinly populated Arctic. (P17) [ARABIC](#) | [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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## [Cities Have the Potential to Shape the Future of Humankind](#)



Viewpoint by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury\*

*The following are extensive extracts from the opening address by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations, who is the Chairman of the Global Forum on Human Settlements*

*(GFHS) since 2008, at the 13th GFHS Annual Session in Bangkok on 30 October 2018. – The Editor*

NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) – We live at a time of unprecedented, rapid, irreversible urbanization. Beginning in 2008, for the first time, half of humanity is now living in towns and cities ... but this dramatic transition is far from over. In reality the beginning of a *new urban era* is being felt. It is projected that globally urbanization levels will rise dramatically in the next 35 years to reach 70 percent by 2050 when the world population is expected to hit 9 billion.

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## [WHO Determined to Prevent Noncommunicable Diseases](#)

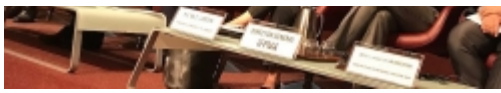


Sri Lanka Co-Chaired Meeting Focuses on Diseases Killing the Poor

By Jamshed Baruah

GENEVA (IDN) – Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) pose a serious global





diseases (NCDs) pose a serious global development challenge. As the year three of the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for](#)

[Sustainable Development](#) and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comes to a close, evidence shows that the international community is not on track to meet a vital goal. This is a disconcerting perspective because NCDs are causing far more deaths and disability than any other group of diseases, according to experts.

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## [Migration a Major Issue in EU's Relations with 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States](#)



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (ACP-IDN) – As the United Nations Global Compact fractures, migration has become a key issue in negotiations between the European Union (EU) and 79 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) which kicked off in September 2018 to hammer out a successor to the Cotonou Partnership

Agreement set to expire in 2020.

The ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou, Benin, on June 23, 2000, was concluded for a 20-year period from 2000 to 2020. It is the most comprehensive partnership agreement between developing countries and the EU. In 2010, ACP-EU cooperation was adapted to new challenges such as climate change, food security, regional integration, State fragility and aid effectiveness.

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## [New ESCAP Chief Aims at Deepening Regional Cooperation](#)



By Jaya Ramachandran

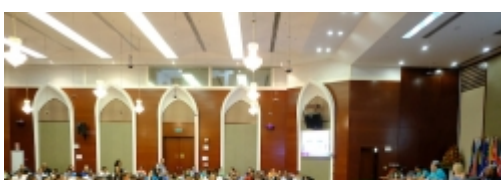
NEW YORK | BANGKOK (IDN) – Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](#)), is convinced that

the organization has the opportunity to lead from the front.

"The Asia-Pacific region has in recent decades seen remarkable social and economic progress," says Dr. Alisjahbana who officially took office on November 1 in Bangkok. Much of this success has been built on strong foundations – on the richness and diversity of its cultures, and on the energy of the people who have changed the world by transforming their own economies, she adds.

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## [Small Island Developing States Reiterate Commitment to Sustainable Development](#)



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – Confronted with the increased effects of climate change, natural disasters, and the outsized impacts of



global economic shocks on small economies, [Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#) have resolved to strengthen their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The 'Apia Outcome' – adopted at the conclusion of a three-day meeting that ended on November 1 in Apia, Samoa – will serve as the basis for the preparation of the inter-governmentally agreed Political Declaration of the High-level SIDS Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway, to be held in September 2019.

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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

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