



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

SDGs for All - November 2019 In Retrospect

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

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

Papal Visit to Japan Revives Debate About Death Penalty

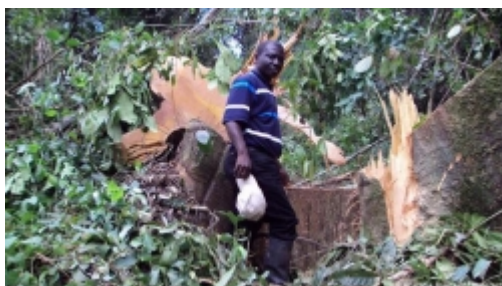


By Katsuhiro Asagiri

TOKYO (IDN) – An international conference "*No Justice Without Life*" has called on Japan to halt all executions next year, the year of the Olympic Games. Japan is one of the 56 nations which retains capital punishment, also known as the death penalty or death sentence for capital crimes. In fact, Japan, the United States and South Korea are the only nations in the group of developed economies that mete out death penalty. (P23) [GERMAN](#) | [ITALIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION](#) [PDF](#)

[Read More](#)

Tropical African Plants Facing Extinction



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – A new study warns that a third of tropical African plants are on the path to extinction, with much of western Africa standing to lose more than 40 percent of plant diversity.

Ethiopia, and parts of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are the hardest hit regions, the researchers found.

Species at risk include trees, shrubs, herbs and woody vines.

[Read More](#)

A Lot More Needs Be Done to Achieve Gender Parity



By Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana and



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Government Ministers and senior officials from the Ministries of Women, National Planning, and Finance, representatives of civil society and other key stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region have gathered at the United Nations Conference

Centre in Bangkok, Thailand for a three-day Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review concluding on 29 November. The following is a joint viewpoint of Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of [ESCAP](#), and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of [UN Women](#).

[Read More](#)

Ethiopia's Fragile Union Threatened as Sidama People Vote for Self-Government



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – Some of the 80 ethnic groups that form the nation of Ethiopia are demanding great autonomy and are voting with their feet for self-government. The

Sidama people voted overwhelmingly in November to become self-governing, casting 98.5 percent of the votes backing the change.

The Sidama – who number about 3 million – represent close to four percent of Ethiopia's 105 million population. By creating their own federal region, the Sidama hope to regain control of land resources, political representation as well as to reaffirm their cultural identity.

[Read More](#)

Communities at The Forefront in the HIV/AIDS Response



Viewpoint by Somar Wijayadasa*

NEW YORK (IDN) – Since the first identification of HIV/AIDS in the United States of America (USA), in 1981, approximately 80 million people have been infected with HIV, and over 40 million have

died of AIDS – the highest global death toll of all time – and also one of the world's most serious public health challenges.

[Read More](#)

Action Needed to Face Looming Danger of Cyberwar



By Arul Louis *

NEW YORK (IDN) – The terrifying potential for cyberwar between nations and also asymmetrical cyberwar by non-state actors now looms over the world with the same intensity of the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

The danger was writ large in a recent cyber intrusion into a nuclear power plant in India and the planting of a virus in an

Iranian nuclear facility.

[Read More](#)

End Rape and Usher in A Far-Reaching Shift for Our Society



Viewpoint by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

The following statement by Executive Director of [UN Women](#) is for the International Day for the Elimination of

Violence against Women on 25 November 2019. [Also available in [ar](#), [es](#), [fr](#), [ru](#)]

NEW YORK (IDN) – If I could have one wish granted, it might well be a total end to rape. That means a significant weapon of war gone from the arsenal of conflict, the absence of a daily risk assessment for girls and women in public and private spaces, the removal of a violent assertion of power, and a far-reaching shift for our society.

[Read More](#)

The Humanitarian Emergency the World is Ignoring



By Kwame Buist

ROME (IDN) – Almost daily violent attacks in the Sahel nations of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have displaced nearly one million people and caused emergency levels of malnutrition, the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) has warned.

“Conflict is moving forward and moving fast,” says Margot van der Velden, Director of WFP’s Emergencies Division, referring to the three countries, where it is estimated 20 million people are living in areas affected by conflict and 2.4 million people are in need of food assistance – a figure that could rise due to continued displacements.

[Read More](#)

Odds Still Stacked Against Poorest Children



By Sean Buchanan

NEW YORK (IDN) – Although there have been historic gains over the last 30 years in improving children’s lives, urgent action is needed if the poorest children are to feel the impact, warns a new [UN report](#).

The report, published on November 18 by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and released ahead of [World Children’s Day](#) on November 20, calls on countries to recommit to promises made under the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), adopted in 1989.

[Read More](#)

Insect Birth Control to Combat Mosquito-Borne Diseases



GENEVA (IDN) – A form of insect birth control – Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) – that sterilises male mosquitoes using radiation will soon be tested as part of



global health efforts to control diseases such as [dengue](#), [chikungunya](#) and [Zika](#).

The technique involves the mass production, sex-separation and sterilisation of male mosquitoes by exposing them to low doses of radiation. Sterile males released into the wild mate with wild female mosquitoes of the same species, resulting in the production of unviable eggs that lead to a decline in wild mosquito populations.

[Read More](#)

ICPD25 Outlines Pathway for Attaining the Rights of Women and Girls



By Justus Wanzala

NAIRBI (IDN) – [ICPD25](#), held in the Kenyan capital Nairobi from November 12-14 and marking the 25th anniversary of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development ([ICPD](#)) in Cairo, Egypt, ended with bold commitments towards attainment of the rights of women and girls.

The conference, attended by more than 6,000 world leaders, scholars, rights advocates and faith leaders saw partners announce commitments to end all maternal deaths, satisfy unmet need for family planning and tackle gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030. (P22)

[JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SWAHILI](#) | [TAGALOG](#)

[Read More](#)

BRICS States Reiterate Commitment to Multilateralism and Urge UN Reform



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK | BRASILIA (IDN) – Leaders of BRICS states comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa have called for strengthening and reforming the multilateral system, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international organizations,

and reiterated their commitment to shaping a more fair, just, equitable and representative multipolar international order.

[Read More](#)

Two UN Agencies Reveal High Rate of Soil Erosion in Benin



By Emil Fulajtar and Joanne Liou*

VIENNA (IDN) – Harmless traces from nuclear testing more than half a century ago are helping researchers assess soil erosion rates. In Africa, about 65 percent of the continent's farmland is affected by erosion-induced losses of topsoil and soil nutrients, according to the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)). Benin is among those countries

Organization of the United Nations (UN). Benin is among those countries severely impacted by soil erosion, which poses a major problem for economic development since agriculture represents approximately 35 percent of the country's GDP and 80 percent of its export income. A recent study applied a nuclear technique to assess rates of soil erosion and support land conservation in Benin.

[Read More](#)

Pneumonia the Number One Killer Disease of Children



By Sean Buchanan

NEW YORK (IDN) – Pneumonia, an entirely preventable disease, claimed the lives of 800,000 children – or one child every 39 seconds – under the age of five last year, but funding to improve survival rates continues to lag, according to a new analysis.

Most deaths occurred among children under the age of two, and almost 153,000 within the first month of life, says a UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) analysis produced in September 2019, based on estimates from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) and the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. (P21) [INDONESIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SPANISH](#)

[Read More](#)

\$78 Billion a Year Will Suffice to Abolish Extreme Poverty



Viewpoint by Jonathan Power

"Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere" is the first of 17 Goals of the United Nations. The latest data indicate that it would cost only \$78 billion a year – less than 0.1% of Global GDP – to abolish extreme poverty.

Indeed, there is an argument for giving the abolition of the worst poverty priority over funding the combating of global warming. It's a much, much cheaper cause than what is being estimated as necessary for stalling global warming – \$2.5 trillion each year on the energy issue, overwhelmingly targeted on renewables. (P20) [CHINESE](#) | [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

[Read More](#)

Fulfil the Rights of Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean



Viewpoint by Natalia Kanem

Following are extensive extracts from the Statement by UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem at the High-level Meeting on "Accelerating global action for the fulfilment of rights for Afro-descendant people in Latin America and the Caribbean", San José, Costa Rica, in October 2019.

NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) – Leave no one behind – that is the global community's ambitious pledge. And the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) call on us to reach

ambitious pledge. And the Sustainable Development Goals call on us to reach those furthest behind first.

[Read More](#)

The UN Experts Shining a Light on Human Rights Violations



By Sean Buchanan

NEW YORK (IDN) – The experts who fan out across the world to research, hold consultations and gather information on a vast range of human rights violations often find themselves caught in the crosshairs of international and domestic politics.

Independent of governments and institutions – including the UN's [Human Rights Council](#) which appoints them.

[Read More](#)

India To Host the UN Conference on Migratory Species



By Rita Joshi

BONN (IDN) – Based on an ancient Sanskrit saying, the theme '*Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home*' will guide the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to

the [Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS COP13\)](#) in Gandhinagar, a planned city in the western Indian state of Gujarat.

Some 1,500 representatives of national governments, international organizations, scientists, conservation groups and other wildlife experts – together with the associated meetings of the Standing Committee – will discuss the topic from February 15 to 22, 2020.

[Read More](#)

Upholding International Humanitarian Law in Times of Armed Violence



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

GENEVA (IDN) – The entry of Turkish troops into what they call a "safe zone" on the frontier of Turkey and northeast Syria and especially the actions of Turkish-backed Syrian militias has raised in a dramatic way the issue of respect of

international humanitarian law. Regular military personnel of all countries are theoretically informed of the rules of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 and the Protocol Additional adopted in 1977. (P19) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TURKISH](#)

[Read More](#)

How Reparations Can Help Eradicate Poverty and Secure SDGs



Viewpoint by Manish Uprety F.R.A.S. and Jainendra Karn *



NEW DELHI (IDN) – Dealing with numbers can take a toll and might make one seek fulfillment in other spheres. No wonder the most influential poet of the last Century penned *The Waste Land* in 1922 when he was dutifully employed with the foreign transactions department of Lloyd's, an

austere English bank in London. (P18) [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN](#)

[Read More](#)

Reporting for People
Planet and Peace

SUPPORT US

Published by

The [International Press Syndicate](#) Group

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

747 Third Avenue, Fl. 2, New York, NY 10017, USA

33 Lafferty Street, Toronto, ONT M9C5B5, CANADA

Europaplatz 2, 8th Floor, 10557 Berlin, GERMANY

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

[Unsubscribe](#)