



Number 4 | 2017

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

## Environmental Risks Behind Peace Accords in Colombia



By Fabíola Ortiz

CARTAGENA, Colombia (IDN) – The peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) – signed in November 2016 and ratified early December by the Colombian Congress – ending five decades of conflict now poses enormous threats for the environment, according to scientists and experts at the International

Congress for Conservation Biology ([ICCB 2017](#)) held in Cartagena July 23-27.

The global forum gathered almost 2,000 scientists to address ecological challenges and present new research in conservation science and sustainable practices.

Colombia, a country with 40 million people, is one of the 17 world's megadiverse nations concentrating 10 percent of biodiversity with 59 national parks and other protected sites covering an area of 23 million hectares. (P19) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) |

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## A Long Way To Go Before Zero Hunger Appears Within Reach



By J Nastranis

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – Hunger can be eliminated in our lifetimes: This was the underlying conviction when United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the Zero Hunger Challenge in 2012. The Zero Hunger vision reflects five

elements from within the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), which taken together, can end hunger, eliminate all forms of malnutrition, and build inclusive and sustainable food systems.

Nearly two years after the international community adopted a set of 17 SDGs to be achieved by 2030, some "20 million people are on the brink of starvation", the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) has warned. "We can only achieve Zero Hunger if we transform the rural economy, put smallholders at the centre and invest in sustainable agriculture and food systems," said Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources.

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## Women Bear the Brunt of Violence in Papua New Guinea

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By Neena Bhandari

SYDNEY (IDN) – Violence is one of the most pressing issues, especially in the highlands, of Papua New Guinea (PNG) – one of the world’s most ethnically and linguistically diverse nations.

“Increased access to high-powered guns such as military style M16s and home-made shotguns, and

the breakdown of traditional rules of warfare, has amplified the effects of violence, resulting in dozens – if not hundreds – of violent deaths and thousands of displacements each year, especially in the Highlands,” says International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) chief official in PNG, Mark Kessler. “We are seeing wounds that one would see in war zones.” (P18) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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## Clean Energy Coming to Kenya’s Kakuma Refugee Camp

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By Justus Wanzala

KAKUMA, Kenya (IDN) – As the sun shrinks into a red ball steadily disappearing beyond the horizon, residents of Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana County, north-western Kenya, adjust to their evening routines. Late shoppers rush out to food stores, school children pick up their books and mothers start preparing the last meal of the day.

Darkness quickly envelops the camp – which is administered by the *UN Refugee Agency*

(*UNHCR*) – and only a few businesses and homesteads are in the fortunate position of possessing diesel generators or solar and kerosene lanterns to provide lighting. Like most places in northern Kenya, Kakuma refugee camp – home to some 170,000 refugees from neighbouring South Sudan, Burundi, Somalia and Congo among others – is off grid, meaning that access to electricity for lighting and other uses is limited.

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## Inter-Religious Coalition Aims For Peace in the Middle East

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By Joan Erakit

NEW YORK (IDN) - There is a famous bible passage that alludes to the unfortunate kinship between siblings; a child is questioned by God about his brother and he, at the time having killed

his brother, denies allegiance by asking: “Am I my brothers keeper?”

Some may interpret the parable about Cain and Abel as follows: being humans, we are brothers by birth meant to look out for one another, yet circumstances have arisen that have turned us against each other. In the end, it is religion that is called upon to solidify bonds, bringing people from various backgrounds and points of view, together on the same page. (P16) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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## Education Key to Promoting Sustainable Development

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By Shanta Rao

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – Speaking of the UN’s post-2015 development agenda, the President of the UN General Assembly Peter Thomson of Fiji last year zeroed in on a home truth: very few human beings in the world, he said, know anything about the UN’s [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

So, he argued, SDGs should be part of every school curriculum. The UN will make a big push for it and youth should be taught about the importance of SDGs in the development agenda, he told reporters.

“If every school curriculum in the world incorporates the Sustainable Development Goals, every school teaches them, and every young person on the planet is made aware of them as rights and responsibilities, the world will stand a very good chance of attaining the Goals by 2030,” he declared. (P15) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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## New UN Report Shows the Way to Achieving Agenda 2030

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By J Nastranis

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – A new United Nations study has warned that the current growth curve in the aftermath of the 2007-2008 Global Financial Crisis "does not provide the enabling environment" for supporting progress in achieving the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#).

According to the latest [World Economic and Social Survey](#), the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) requires "greater and deeper international coordination in key policy areas including fiscal, monetary and trade."

But the Report launched by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([UN DESA](#)) finds that "such challenges are not insurmountable." In the last 70 years, says the Survey, the world has witnessed episodes of economies experiencing remarkable economic development, which include: Germany and Japan in the 1950s and 1960s, followed by the Asian Tigers – Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Taiwan.

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## UN Development Agenda Found Falling Behind in Reaching Goals

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By Shanta Rao

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – As part of its the [Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the United

Nations is determined to “to leave no one behind” in its strong commitment to ensure the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2030, which is an integral part of the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) adopted by world leaders in September 2015.

But in a [new report](#) released July 17, the UK-based Overseas Development Institute (ODI) points out that only 25 of the 44 countries presenting their progress on SDGs at the UN’s [High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#), which concludes July 19, are ready to meet the central commitment of “leaving no-one behind.” The report has been released



to coincide with the UN's 10-day HLPF.

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## Poverty Impeding Global Sustainable Development



By Santo D. Banerjee

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – While nearly 1.1 billion people escaped extreme poverty between 1990 and 2013 because of strong economic growth that benefited the world's poorest, "the number of people living in extreme poverty remains unacceptably high, with nearly 800 million living on or below US\$1.90 per day," according to a new [UN document](#).

In view of this, "the road to 2030 will not be easy because economic growth alone will not be sufficient to help those remaining in extreme poverty to move out," warns the document prepared for the [2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) which kicked off on July 19 and concludes on July 19 after the three-day ministerial meeting.

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## UN Chief Welcomes Ban Ki-moon Global Education Institute



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) - UN Secretary-General António Guterres has welcomed the ground-breaking ceremony for the Global Education Institute (GEI) initiated by his predecessor Ban Ki-moon on July 11 2017 at Handong Global University – in Pohang, 374km southeast of Seoul – the hub of [UN Academic Impact \(UNAI\)](#) for capacity-building in higher education.

"I am pleased to greet all those attending the ground-breaking ceremony for the Ban Ki-moon Global Education Institute," said Guterres in a message, adding: "The opportunity to enjoy an inclusive and equitable quality education is a prerequisite for improving lives and ensuring sustainable development."

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## Cameroon Looks to Its Diaspora to Save Troubled Economy



By Ngala Killian Chintom

YAOUNDE (ACP-IDN) – "You are welcome back home", said Cameroon Prime Minister Philemon Yang, setting the tone for a five-day event intended to woo the Cameroonian diaspora to invest in its country of origin.

With eyes set on 2035 as the year Cameroon should attain emergence status, public authorities are doing what they can to fast track the country's economic growth, constrained as it is by a draining battle against terrorist group Boko Haram and falling oil prices on the international market.

As a result, Cameroon is now turning to its diaspora to help the troubled economy of the Central African country.

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## Agenda 2030 Needs a Revamp of the UN Development System



By J. Nastranis

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – Nearly eighteen months after the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** – adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an **historic UN Summit** – officially came into force, Secretary-General

António Guterres is concerned that the UN Development System is not delivering on the ambitious agenda.

In his **remarks** to the Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**) on July 5, the UN Chief said: "The 2030 Agenda is our boldest agenda for humanity, and requires equally bold changes in the UN development system . . . Yet we all know that the system is not functioning at its full potential."

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## UNESCO Crucial to Achieving the SDGs in their Totality



By Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

*Following is the text of the Foreword the UNESCO Director-General wrote for the '2017 Report of the Joint Media Project' of the International Press Syndicate Group, with IDN-InDepthNews as its flagship agency and the Soka Gakkai International (SGI). The Report can be accessed on line at*

[http://www.sdgsforall.net/documents/Striving\\_for\\_People\\_Planet\\_and\\_Peace\\_2017.pdf](http://www.sdgsforall.net/documents/Striving_for_People_Planet_and_Peace_2017.pdf).  
- The Editor

PARIS (IDN-INPS) - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, charts a new vision for cooperation over the next 15 years, to ensure prosperity and well-being for all societies, while protecting the planet and strengthening peace. Inclusivity, integration, and universality. These are three hallmarks of the SDGs, and they represent the most ambitious and comprehensive agenda ever seen – to leave no one behind.

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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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