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SDGs for All - September 2019 In Retrospect

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can also be found on our news website [IDN-InDepthNews](#).

UN Calls for A Global Green New Deal and Radical Reforms



By [Jaya Ramachandran](#)

GENEVA (IDN) – In a bold move, new UN report has proposed a series of reform measures to make debt, capital and banks work for development and finance a *Global Green New Deal* generating a net increase in global employment of at least 170 million jobs, with cleaner industrialization in the South and an overall reduction in carbon emissions by the target year of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

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We Have a Long Way to Go Battling Climate Change, Laments UN Chief



By [Shanta Roy](#)

NEW YORK (IDN) – The much-publicized [Climate Action Summit](#), hosted by the United Nations on September 23, took off on a not-so-positive note even though it was billed as a high-level meeting of world political leaders.

Despite dire warnings from UN Secretary-General António Guterres of an impending “climate emergency” – with hurricanes, droughts, floods and heat waves in the far horizon – only 64 speakers, mostly heads of government and heads of state, turned up for the summit. (P15) [FRENCH](#) | [ITALIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT](#)
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Corruption a Cause for Citizen Concern in Latin America and the Caribbean



By Kwame Buist

BERLIN (IDN) – In the last five years, momentum has been building against corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean. High-level politicians have been found guilty of corruption in Guatemala and Brazil, and a wave of legal action against the perpetrators of grand corruption has

swept across the continent, including the [Lava Jato](#) – or “Operation Car Wash” – investigation in Brazil.

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ACP, EU Point to Crucial Linkages Between Sustainable Development and Climate Action



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – More than half of the UN members have issued a [joint declaration](#) in support of the [2030 Agenda](#), [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) endorsed by the international community in September 2015, and the [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#) adopted three months

later.

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EU Joins 79 ACP States in Calling for ‘Bold Decisions’ to Achieve SDGs



By J. Tuyet Nguyen

NEW YORK (IDN) – Governments from Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and the European Union issued on September 24 a joint declaration calling for “bold decisions” to implement the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and climate change

agreements, saying that the two programs are closely linked.

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Global Leaders Urged to Make Africa's Great Green Wall a Reality by 2030



By Caroline Mwangi

NEW YORK (IDN) – Eminent leaders from business, politics, media, the film and music industries gathered in New York on September 22 to spotlight the 8000 km [Great Green Wall](#) – natural wonder of the

world across the entire width of the African continent – as a practical, low-cost nature-based solution responding to the global climate emergency. They issued an urgent call on governments, civil society and business to join a growing global movement to make the Great Green Wall a reality by 2030.

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Up to 5 Billion People Could Miss Out on Health Care in 2030



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – Time is running out for countries to achieve the global goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). A new report warns that if current trends continue, up to 5 billion people will still be unable to

access health care in 2030 – the deadline world leaders have set for achieving universal health coverage. Most of those people are poor and already disadvantaged.

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New Report Highlights Growing Gap Between Global Targets and Climate Reality



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – A landmark new report has underlined the glaring – and growing – gap between agreed targets to tackle global warming and the actual reality. The report, *United in Science*, includes details on the state of the climate and presents trends in the emissions and atmospheric concentrations of the main greenhouse gases. It highlights the urgency of fundamental socio-economic transformation in key sectors such as land use and energy in order to avert dangerous global

temperature increase with potentially irreversible impacts. It also examines tools to support both mitigation and adaptation.

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Thai Farmer Shows How ‘Sufficiency Economy’ Works in Practice



By Bronwen Evans*

CHANTHABURI, Thailand (IDN) – There are generally two reasons why Thai farmers embrace organics – one is health and the other is economics. For 73-year old Kumnung Chanthasit it was the latter. He had farmed the same plot of land in Thailand’s eastern province of Chanthaburi

since boyhood. Despite the rich volcanic soil, he found himself sinking deeper and deeper into debt as he struggled to pay for the fertilisers and pesticides he thought he needed. (P14) [INDONESIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TAGALOG](#) | [THAI](#)

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Young People Are Right About Climate Change



Viewpoint by Luis Alfonso de Alba

The writer is the UN Secretary-General’s



Special Envoy for the Climate Action Summit.

NEW YORK (IDN) – Climate change is not a far-away problem – it is causing huge damage right now in Asia-Pacific and around the world. From air pollution choking many major cities, to more extreme heat and natural disasters, to one million species at risk, the urgent need for climate action is clear.

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Climate Change: A People-Centered Approach



Viewpoint by Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, President, [Soka Gakkai International \(SGI\)](#)

TOKYO (IDN) – “That which is common to the greatest number has the least care bestowed upon it,” observed Aristotle, highlighting an all-too-common human tendency. His warning is still relevant today, especially in our fight against climate change. [CHINESE](#) | [JAPANESE](#) | [ITALIAN](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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Kenya Must Move Fast to Reverse Deforestation



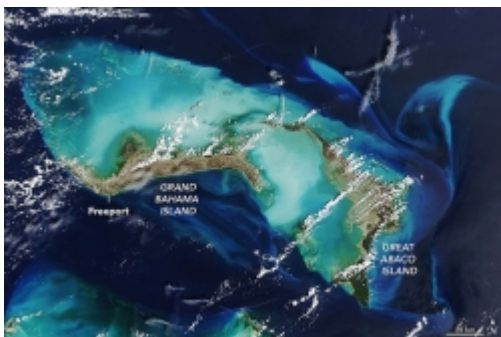
By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – Since independence, natural resources in Kenya have been on a fast track to extinction. Today, nearly half of all its forests are gone, resulting in more droughts, floods and other dire consequences for communities, ecosystems, food security and infrastructure.

From 10% of the country covered in forest in 1963, noted Kaluki Paul Mutuku, [Youth4Nature](#) Regional Coordinator, Africa Group, only 6% was covered in 2009.

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Leaders Demand Urgent Climate Action in Dorian’s Wake



By Josephine Latu-Sanft

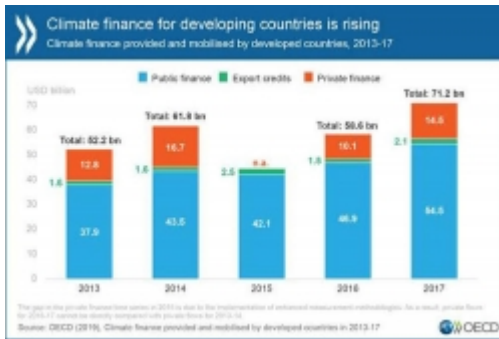
The writer is Senior Communications Officer, Communications Division, Commonwealth Secretariat.

LONDON (IDN) – In the lead up to September 23 [global climate summit](#) in New York and barely two weeks after Hurricane Dorian battered The Bahamas, the Commonwealth’s top official is calling for

urgent action to tackle climate change and its disastrous impacts.

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Need to Boost Climate Finance for Developing Countries



By Robert Johnson

PARIS (IDN) – A new report will call for attention when climate finance provided and mobilized by developed countries for climate action in developing countries is discussed at the [Climate Action Summit](#) at the UN in New York on September 23 and in the run-up to the [COP25 climate talks](#) in Santiago de Chile in December.

This report finds that while climate finance reached USD 71.2 billion in 2017 – marking an up from USD 58.6 billion in 2016 – it fell short of the goal to be reached by 2020.

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Female Football A Gender Equalizer in Kyrgyzstan



By Bagymdat Atabaeva

BISHKEK (IDN) – In this predominantly Islamic country, one may expect to see women playing a subordinate role to men in many spheres of life. But, women in Kyrgyzstan are breaking this stereotype

image and football is shaping up as a great gender equalizer.

“I have been coaching girls for over 40 years now. I started when I was 23 and at the time there was a very sensitive lack of financial support.

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ACP Reiterates Call for Urgent Ambitious Climate Action



Viewpoint by Dr. Patrick I. Gomes

The writer is the Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP). Following are extensive excerpts from his presentation at the [United Nations Trade Forum](#) from 9-13 September 2019 in the Session ‘Climate Action and Trade’ in Geneva.

GENEVA (IDN) – The ACP Group of States shares with the great majority of well-informed persons, globally, that climate change is the most significant challenge, this century, for the achievement of sustainable development on planet Earth.

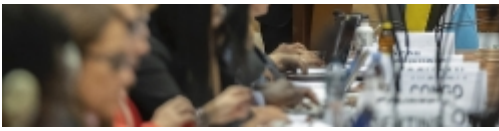
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Extinction ‘Imminent’ for Small Islands



By Sean Buchanan

NEW YORK | GENEVA (IDN) – Islands are often emblazoned across tourism pamphlets, glorified as the epitome of natural beauty and portrayed as idyllic



places of escape. But this image is far from the dark reality they face.

Changes in sea level, temperature, precipitation, a growing number of extreme storms and floods, visible vulnerability of critical infrastructure such as ports and airports, growing unpredictability, and the fact that there is nowhere to go, is a daily threat for the 65 million people living in 57 small island developing states (SIDS) scattered throughout the world's oceans.

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Kazakhstan Needs Young Graduates as Teachers for Education Reforms to Succeed



By Milena Melnikova*

TARAZ (IDN) – Since 2016, the educational system in Kazakhstan has undergone numerous reforms, and in October 2018 President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced further reforms, including a pledge to increase spending in education along with science and healthcare to 10 percent of national GDP within five years.

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The Emerald Forests Need Not Die



Viewpoint by Jonathan Power

LUND, Sweden (IDN-INPS) – Belem is the Brazilian city at the mouth of the Amazon. Unlike its slummy counterpart, Kinshasa, at the mouth of the Congo, it's full of resplendent streets with beautiful nineteenth century houses. It has squares and marketplaces full of cafes, fountains and life.

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UN Convenes A High-Level Forum to Stress the Significance of Culture of Peace



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | NEW YORK (IDN) – "The seed of peace exists in all of us. It must be nurtured, cared for and promoted by us all to flourish. Peace cannot be imposed from outside – it must be realized from within," says Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury in the run-up to the [High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace](#) on September 13, 2019 in

the UN headquarters in New York.

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Financing Gap of Trillions of Dollars to Achieve 17 SDGs



By Santo D. Banerjee



By Sanku D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – Although significant progress has been made since the adoption of the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) in 2015, recent data confirm that the world is not on track to achieve the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). This includes

the slow pace at which the financing gap for the SDGs – amounting to trillions of dollars – is being filled.

This in turn is adversely affecting financing, which is the thread that connects many of the priorities from advances on climate action to universal health coverage to the SDGs and small island developing States.

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India Calls for A Global Water Action Agenda to Restore Degraded Land



By Devinder Kumar

NEW DELHI (IDN) – As [COP14](#), the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification ([UNCCD](#)) entered the second week, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the ministerial segment calling on the international

community to set up a global water action agenda as the central theme to achieve [land degradation neutrality \(LDN\)](#).

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Organic Agriculture Key to Combat Land Degradation



By Devinder Kumar

NEW DELHI (IDN) – In 2018, the first 100% organic state in the world, Sikkim in the North of India, received the Gold Award of the UN backed [Future Policy Award](#), also known as 'Oscar' for best policies. The policy enhances soil fertility and increases

biodiversity at field and landscape level. Further states in India and the Himalayas have adopted 100% organic farming goals or aim to adopt them.

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Everything Has to Change for Our Planet to Stay the Same



By António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

NEW YORK (IDN) – Our planet is changing dramatically. Forests are burning, sea ice is shrinking, and the Greenland icecap is pouring unprecedented amounts of water into the ocean. Levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are higher than they have

been in human history, climate disruption is the new reality, and scientists are warning that the planet is simply not capable of coping with the growing pressure being placed on it by humanity.

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Sex Bait Threatens Women's Lives in Much of Africa



By Kizito Makoye

LUDEWA, Tanzania (IDN) – It's almost midday in Nsisi – a fishing village nestled on the shore of Lake Nyasa – and Lucy Gwamaka is busy unfurling a canvas to dry her sardines in the sun.

For the 33-year-old mother of three, life is a daily struggle. Her wrinkled face and sun-parched skin makes her look older than her age.

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UN Chief Applauds Japan-Africa Partnership Through TICAD



By Taro Ichikawa

YOKOHAMA (IDN) – "I see Africa as a dynamic continent of opportunity where winds of hope are blowing ever stronger. TICAD has played a critical role in focusing

international dialogue on Africa, built on the twin principles of African ownership and international partnership," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres kicking off the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7). The United Nations, UN Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC) co-hosted the conference in Yokohama city.

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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

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