17 SDGs | 169 Targets
Taking us to THE FUTURE WE WANT
Ambitious new agenda seeks to end poverty by 2030 and promote global economic prosperity, social development and environmental protection

The 193 Member States of the United Nations reached agreement on 2 August on the draft outcome document that will constitute the new sustainable development agenda that will be adopted this September by world leaders at the Sustainable Development Summit in New York.

Concluding a negotiating process that has spanned more than two years and has featured the unprecedented participation of civil society, countries agreed to an ambitious agenda that features 17 new sustainable development goals that aim to end poverty, promote prosperity and people’s well-being while protecting the environment by 2030.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the agreement, saying it “encompasses a universal, transformative and integrated agenda that heralds an historic turning point for our world.”

“This is the People’s Agenda, a plan of action for ending poverty in all its dimensions, irreversibly, everywhere, and leaving no one behind. It seeks to ensure peace and prosperity, and forge partnerships with people and planet at the core. The integrated, interlinked and indivisible 17 Sustainable Development Goals are the people’s goals and demonstrate the scale, universality and ambition of this new Agenda.”

Mr. Ban said the September Summit, where the new agenda will be adopted, “will chart a new era of Sustainable Development in which poverty will be eradicated, prosperity shared and the core drivers of climate change tackled.”

He added that the UN System stands ready to support the implementation of the new agenda, which builds on the successful outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, and which, he said, will also contribute to achieving a meaningful agreement in the COP 21 in Paris in December.

More than 150 world leaders including Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, are expected to attend the Sustainable Development Summit at the UN headquarters in New York between 25 and 27 September to formally adopt the outcome document of the new sustainable agenda.

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“We are resolved to free the human race within this generation from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and secure our planet for the present and for future generations.” It continues, “We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.”

– Document Preamble

The new sustainable development agenda builds on the success of the Millennium Development Goals, which helped more than 700 million people escape poverty. The eight Millennium Development Goals, adopted in 2000, aimed at an array of issues that included slashing poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and access to water and sanitation by 2015.

The new sustainable development goals, and the broader sustainability agenda, go much further, addressing the root
BEYOND 2015

causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people.

Core elements of the draft outcome document

The outcome document highlights poverty eradication as the overarching goal of the new development agenda and has at its core the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The emerging development agenda is unique in that it calls for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income. Member States pledge that as they embark on this collective journey, no one will be left behind. The ‘five Ps’ – people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership – capture the broad scope of the agenda.

The 17 sustainable goals and 169 targets aim at tackling key systemic barriers to sustainable development such as inequality, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, inadequate infrastructure and lack of decent jobs.

The environmental dimension of sustainable development is covered in the goals on oceans and marine resources and on ecosystems and biodiversity, bringing core issues into the goal and target framework.

The means of implementation outlined in the outcome document match its ambitious goals and focus on finance, technology and capacity development. In addition to a stand-alone goal on the means of implementation for the new agenda, specific means are tailored to each of the sustainable development goals.

Member States stressed that the desired transformations will require a departure from “business as usual” and that intensified international cooperation on many fronts will be required. The agenda calls for a revitalized, global partnership for sustainable development, including for multi-stakeholder partnerships. The agenda also calls for increased capacity-building and better data and statistics to measure sustainable development.

An effective follow-up and review architecture – a core element of the outcome document – will be critical to support the implementation of the new agenda. The High Level Political Forum on sustainable development, set up after the Rio+20 Conference, will serve as the apex forum for follow up and review and will thus play a central role. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and specialized agencies will also be engaged in reviewing progress in specific areas.

Based on the outcome document, the agenda will include a Technology Facilitation Mechanism to support the new goals, based on multi-stakeholder collaboration between Member States, civil society, business, the scientific community, and the UN system of agencies. The Mechanism, which was agreed at the Addis Conference in July, will have an inter-agency task team, a forum on science, technology and innovation, and an online platform for collaboration.


Sustainable development goals

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
- Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
- Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
- Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
On 15 July, countries agreed on a series of bold measures to overhaul global finance practices and generate investments for tackling a range of economic, social and environmental challenges at the United Nations Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa.

The groundbreaking agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, provides a foundation for implementing the global sustainable development agenda that world leaders are expected to adopt this September. The agreement was reached by the 193 UN Member States attending the Conference, following negotiations under the leadership of Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The agreement, adopted after months of negotiations between countries, marks a milestone in forging an enhanced global partnership that aims to foster universal, inclusive economic prosperity and improve people’s well-being while protecting the environment.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, “This agreement is a critical step forward in building a sustainable future for all. It provides a global framework for financing sustainable development.” He added, “The results here in Addis Ababa give us the foundation of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development that will leave no one behind.”

The Conference is the first of three crucial events this year that can set the world on an unprecedented path to a prosperous and sustainable future. Its outcome provides a strong foundation for countries to finance and adopt the proposed sustainable development agenda in New York in September, and to reach a binding agreement at the UN climate negotiations in Paris in December that will reduce global carbon emissions.

Financing is considered the linchpin for the success of the new sustainable development agenda, which will be driven by the implementation of 17 sustainable development goals.

Close to 150 world leaders will adopt the new goals at the Sustainable Development Summit in New York this September. The goals address global priorities including ending poverty and hunger, reducing social inequality, tackling climate change, and preserving the planet’s natural resources.

In support of implementation of the sustainable development goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda contains more than 100 concrete measures. It addresses all sources of finance, and covers cooperation on a range of issues including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building.

Domestic resource mobilization is central to the agenda. In the outcome document, countries agreed to an array of measures aimed at widening the revenue base, improving tax collection, and combatting tax evasion and illicit financial flows. Countries also reaffirmed their commitment to official development assistance, particularly for the least developed countries, and pledged to increase South-South cooperation.

The outcome document also underscores the importance of aligning private investment with sustainable development, along with public policies and regulatory frameworks to set the right incentives. A new mechanism that will facilitate financing for new technologies for developing countries was also agreed upon.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda includes important policy commitments and key deliverables in critical areas for sustainable development, including infrastructure, social protection and technology. There were agreements for international cooperation for financing of specific areas where significant investments are needed, such as in infrastructure for energy, transport, water and sanitation, and other areas to help realize the proposed sustainable development goals.

Countries also stressed the importance of nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks.
The Addis Ababa Action Agenda

To achieve these goals, countries also agreed to new initiatives, including on:  

**Technology** – Countries agreed to establish a Technology Facilitation Mechanism at the Sustainable Development Summit in September to boost collaboration among governments, civil society, private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders to support the sustainable development goals.

**Infrastructure** – Countries agreed to establish a Global Infrastructure Forum to identify and address infrastructure gaps, highlight opportunities for investment and cooperation, and work to ensure that projects are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

**Social protection** – Countries adopted a new social compact in favour of the poor and vulnerable groups, through the provision of social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors.

**Health** – Countries agreed to consider taxing harmful substances to deter consumption and to increase domestic resources. They agreed that taxes on tobacco reduce consumption and could represent an untapped revenue stream for many countries.

**Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises** – Countries committed to promote affordable and stable access to credit for smaller enterprises. They also pledged to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the International Labour Organization Global Jobs Pact by 2020.

**Foreign aid** – Countries recommitted to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance, and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent for least developed countries.

**A package of measures for the poorest countries** – Developed countries commit to reverse the decline in aid to the poorest countries, with the European Union committing to increase its aid to least developed countries to 0.2 per cent of gross national income by 2030. They also agree to adopt or strengthen least developed countries investment promotion regimes, including with financial and technical support. Governments also aim to operationalize the technology bank for this group of countries by 2017.

**Taxation** – The Agenda calls for strengthening support for the work of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to improve its effectiveness and operational capacity, and the engagement with the Economic and Social Council. It emphasizes the importance of inclusive cooperation and dialogue among national tax authorities.

**Climate Change** – The Action Agenda calls on developed countries to implement their commitment to a goal of jointly mobilizing USD100 billion per year by 2020 from a wide variety of sources to address the needs of developing countries. Countries also committed to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that lead to wasteful consumption.

UN in India at Addis Ababa

Hosted by UNDP-India, a side event in Addis Ababa brought together high ranking officials in the Indian government, noted experts from India and abroad, key persons from the civil society organizations in India and other Southern countries and had participation of an expert audience including the media. It was presided over by Hon’ble Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Jayant Sinha (extreme right) Government of India, who was leading the Indian delegation to the FFD3.

Discussions included, appreciating the link between the three pillars of sustainable development, domestic resource mobilization and the importance of new international tax architecture, prospects of a technology facilitation mechanism and the importance of follow-up and monitoring of the proposed Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) coming into force this September, UN Member States united in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14-16 July to ensure funding and financing towards development. To familiarize media persons with the UN’s focus on sustainable development, UNIC New Delhi organized a Master Class for Media on 22 July. Participants were taken through the output of the conference and its implications on developed and developing countries, including India.

Dr. Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, presented an overview of the need for financing for development and the roadblocks faced in mobilizing resources. With more than double the number of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved in the next 15 years, she threw light on how these resources could be mobilized. With huge targets and inequitable access to wealth, she said that governments would require “enabling conditions” to raise money and would also require developmental assistance from other nations. She elaborated on tax evasion and tax avoidance that individuals and organizations were likely to practice on account of the individual tax policies that nations like Switzerland, Cayman Islands and Mauritius had. She highlighted the importance of involving the private sector in the process of development and incentivizing them through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in socially desirable causes. Although PPP’s have had mixed results in India, China funds its development projects in this manner. Taking a leaf out of countries like Germany, China and Brazil, she recommended strengthening development banks in India as another measure which could also fund large scale projects.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office elucidated each of the action areas listed in the outcome document. He outlined the need for international cooperation to tackle tax issues and noted the commitment of the developed countries to achieve the overall Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) and the goal of 0.15 to 0.20% of GNI to Least Developed Countries (LDC). While these resources would warrant action towards eliminating poverty and inequality at large, he stressed that enhanced data collection methods would be crucial to improving policy-making.

Ms. Premila Nazareth Satyanand, Policy Analyst and UNCTAD Consultant discussed the deficit of 2.5 trillion dollars that developing countries would need to meet annually to focus attention on the SDGs. She noted that increased private sector investment could bridge this gap and also stressed on the need for domestic firms to pay more tax. She also cautioned that offshore financial centres, which often served as tax havens, would make both the developed and developing countries equally vulnerable to tax avoidance.

Ms. Yamini Mishra, Gender Responsive Budget Specialist, UN Women highlighted the gender aspects of the outcome agenda and the role of financing in women’s empowerment. She highlighted the issue of unpaid work performed by women that needed to be addressed. She also noted that the section on trade acknowledged women but did not factor in the differentiated effects of trade on men and women. While the agenda accounted for women’s development, she voiced her concerns regarding language and advised a gender neutral tone.

UNIC Director Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman introduced the eminent speakers while NIO Rajiv Chandran facilitated the proceedings of the day. Several representatives from print and digital media houses participated in the class.
UN projects world population to reach 8.5 billion by 2030

The world’s population is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion by 2050 and exceed 11 billion by 2100, with India expected to surpass China as the most populous around seven years from now and Nigeria overtaking the United States to become the world’s third largest country around 35 years from now, according to a new United Nations report released on 29 July.

Moreover, the report reveals that during the 2015-2050 period, half of the world’s population growth is expected to be concentrated in nine countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, the United States, Indonesia and Uganda.

Wu Hongbo, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, whose department produced the 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects, the 24th round of official UN population estimates and projections, noted that understanding the demographic changes that are likely to unfold over the coming years “is key to the design and implementation of the new development agenda.”

“Most of the projected increase in the world’s population can be attributed to a short list of high-fertility countries, mainly in Africa, or countries with already large populations,” according to the report.

At present, China and India remain the two largest countries in the world, each with more than 1 billion people, representing 19 and 18 per cent of the world’s population, respectively, but by 2022, the population of India is expected to surpass that of China, according to the report’s projection.

According to the report’s projections, the current world population of 7.3 billion is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100.

Among the 10 largest countries in the world currently, one is in Africa (Nigeria), five are in Asia (Bangladesh, China, India, The world’s population grew to seven billion in 2011, Indonesia, and Pakistan), two are in Latin America (Brazil and Mexico), one is in Northern America (US), and one is in Europe (Russian Federation).

“Of these, Nigeria’s population, currently the seventh largest in the world, is growing the most rapidly,” said the report. Consequently, the population of Nigeria is expected to surpass that of the United States by about 2050, at which point it would become the third largest country in the world.

The report also projected that by 2050 the populations of six countries are expected to exceed 300 million: China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the United States.

And with the highest rate of population growth, Africa is expected to account for more than half of the world’s population growth over the next 35 years.

“The concentration of population growth in the poorest countries presents its own set of challenges, making it more difficult to eradicate poverty and inequality, to combat hunger and malnutrition, and to expand educational enrolment and health systems, all of which are crucial to the success of the new sustainable development agenda,” said John Wilmoth, Director of the UN’s Population Division.

In contrast to the growth projections, a significant ageing of the population in the next several decades is projected for most regions, starting with Europe where 34 per cent of the population is projected to be over 60 years old by 2050. In Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia, the population will be transformed from having 11 per cent to 12 per cent of people over 60 years old today to more than 25 per cent by 2050.

http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/
IN THE NEWS

UN urges action to tackle illegal wildlife trade

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ecognizing that wild animals and plants are an “irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the Earth,” the United Nations General Assembly, on 30 July, urged its Member States to take decisive steps to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, “on both the supply and demand sides.”

Through the new resolution, the Assembly expressed serious concern over the steady rise in the level of rhino poaching and the alarmingly high levels of killings of elephants in Africa, which threaten those species with local extinction and, in some cases, with global extinction.

“Illegal wildlife trafficking not only threatens species and ecosystems; it affects the livelihoods of local communities and diminishes touristic attractions. It compromises efforts towards poverty eradication and the achievement of sustainable development,” said the President of the 69th session of the Assembly, in remarks read by Vice-President Denis G. Antoine.

Adopting a consensus text resolution, the 193-Member body encouraged Governments to adopt effective measures to prevent and counter the serious problem of crimes such as illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife and criminal justice responses, acknowledging that the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime can provide valuable technical assistance in this regard.”

The General Assembly also calls upon Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a “serious crime.”

Member States are equally encouraged to harmonize their judicial, legal and administrative regulations to support the exchange of evidence, as well as to establish “national-level inter-agency wildlife crime task forces.”

“The adoption of this resolution today and its effective implementation will be crucial in our collective efforts to combat illicit trafficking in wildlife worldwide,” adds the President’s statement.

Indian elected President of WFUCA

The 9th World Congress of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA), held in Beijing, China, from 22-24 July 2015, elected Mr. Dhirendra Bhatnagar as its President for a 4-year term, 2015-2019.

It is for the first time that the post of the President of WFUCA has come to any Asian Country.

Established in 1981, WFUCA affiliates more than 5000 UNESCO Clubs in over 100 countries.

www.wfuca.org
HeForShe is a global solidarity campaign launched by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) that calls upon men and boys to stand up against the persisting inequalities faced by women and girls globally. Its goal is to mobilize ONE BILLION MEN and boys, primarily youth, as advocates of change aiming to achieve gender equality. The campaign strengthens the support for women's empowerment as a human right by enlisting men and encouraging them to act against gender inequality.

Through the HeForShe campaign the UN Women India Multi Country Office (MCO) is engaging with youth to create gender equality champions who work towards advocating and achieving changes for gender equality.

We have 27,172 online pledges on the website and another 20,000 as offline pledges. India features among the top five countries in the world to enlist HeForShe commitments as of March 2015, including USA, UK, Canada, and Australia, all accounting for 53% of total commitments.

India witnessed a surge in the number of men and boys who took the pledge to end gender discrimination, leading India to register an increase of around 665% since the launch of the campaign in November 2014.

In 2014 a number of high-profile celebrities lent their voices to support UN Women’s efforts to build gender equality in the Asia-Pacific region. Sania Mirza and Farhan Akhtar from India were appointed UN Women Goodwill Ambassadors for South Asia in November 2014.

Both have been in the forefront of the HeForShe campaign, calling on men and boys to be the catalyst for change. They have extensively promoted the campaign on social media and passed on the message through their work. Farhan Akhtar, for instance, espoused the cause of women’s equal participation, decision-making and the redistribution of power in society through his character in his recent film Dil Dhadakne Do. Farhan has also toured extensively with his band Farhan Live and promoted the cause for women’s empowerment and a world free of violence against women and girls.

We have thus far been able to mobilize more than 50,000 young men and boys in India to pledge for gender equality. We have so far reached out to more than 30 educational institutes across India, including secondary schools.

In addition to educational institutions HeForShe engages with youth over social media. HeForShe has reached more than 1.2 billion people on social media.

The HeForShe campaign has been able to create a growing awareness about the disadvantages of patriarchal values, institutions and gender stereotypes that affect men as well. Now more young people have started talking about gender inequality than in the past. Media and civil society groups have played a significant role in this regard.

We have seen a huge rise in the number of youth who have come forward requesting the MCO to organize campaigns in their schools and colleges and engaging on the issue through social media. Only recently Anand Bansode, (centre) a well-known Indian mountaineer and motivational speaker, supported the campaign by pledging to mount the HeForShe flag on the highest peak in the United States, Mount McKinley.

This is an important change. We can imagine a gender just society only when both men and women are considered equal. And that is possible only when men and boys become partners in the journey towards gender parity.
A group of gifted young Indians from 13 colleges and universities around the country were felicitated in New Delhi on 30 June 2015 for their promotion of community radio through the medium of film. Their films had been entered for the Community Radio Video Challenge 2015, a contest jointly run by UNESCO New Delhi, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication (AIMC). The awards ceremony at the India International Centre was attended by over 100 media practitioners, community media activists, members of the student community, academics, and representatives of development agencies and NGOs.

The Community Radio Video Challenge (CRVC) was launched in 2013 by UNESCO and CEMCA as a youth engagement and advocacy programme for building awareness about community radio (CR), and particularly about CR’s importance for the expression, learning and development of local communities. The second edition of the contest, the CRVC 2015, had invited short films of up to three minutes on the theme ‘Community Radio: Citizens’ Voices, Empowering Societies’.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO Representative for Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka observed that CR was still a young medium in India, with the country’s CR movement originating in campaigns to democratize the airwaves in the 1990s. As he pointed out: ‘The CR sector in India is growing slowly but steadily, and it is important to help develop a new generation of CR enthusiasts and activists to take the movement forward. This is the larger vision of the CRVC.’

Mr. Bhaskar Ghose, former Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Culture, and a renowned journalist, was the Chief Guest at the event. He drew attention to the “unique immediacy of contact” that CR offered, and recounted his own experience of witnessing the remarkable changes CR had been able to bring about in a particular rural locale. Mr. Ghose noted however that, “As smartphones grow ever smarter – incorporating radio, recording tools and other media applications – they pose a very real threat to CR.” Hence it is important for CR to innovate constantly and work towards a state of media convergence that allows mobile phones to extend and strengthen CR, without replacing it.

A special guest address was delivered on the occasion by RJ Raunac of Red FM 93.5, among India’s most popular radio jockeys and a youth icon. Emphasizing the power of radio to reach out to people and touch their lives, Raunac drew upon an assortment of recorded extracts from his dial-in radio programmes that brilliantly demonstrated how radio could help strengthen local governance, help improve the efficiency of civic bodies and bring different stakeholder groups together to facilitate collaborative problem-solving. Raunac concluded that if radio jockeys from the private radio sector could spend a certain amount of time at CR stations, a process of knowledge-sharing and mutual learning between themselves and CR personnel would begin, greatly benefiting both parties.
UNV: Youth participation at the heart of sustainable development

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism. UNV is inspired by the conviction that volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and by the idea that everyone can contribute their time and energy towards peace and development. In 2014, UNV released a youth volunteerism strategy to help engage youth in volunteering.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is the nodal Ministry for UNV in India. In partnership with UNDP, both organizations are increasingly working towards youth voluntarism and development. To continue the discourse on youth development, national UN Volunteers (UNVs) Mr. Auro Shashwat and Mr. Preetam Sengupta were invited to attend the Youth Leaders’ Forum prior to the Asia Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting convened by the Commonwealth Secretariat and hosted by India’s Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the title, ‘Youth Participation at the Heart of Sustainable Development’ from 27th till 30th July, 2015.

The first two days witnessed youth leaders strengthen their resolve to amplify the collective youth voice in the eight Asian Commonwealth member states of Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Two working groups – one of which was voluntarily moderated by national UNV Preetam – were formed to develop a set of recommendations from young leaders towards the upcoming Youth Ministers Meeting.

These recommendations were distilled into the Youth Declaration, a comprehensive list of issues such as sustainable youth employment opportunities and the need for a stronger voice in regional development. Youth leaders called on the Ministers to partner with them to strengthen and cultivate inclusive, democratic, autonomous and youth-led National Youth Councils in all Asian Commonwealth countries, and at the regional level for engagement with youth bodies in other blocs such as the European Union, Pacific and Caribbean.

At the Ministers’ Meeting, youth ministers and senior officials committed to tackling high youth unemployment and lack of youth participation. They recognised that providing a greater role for young people in decision making is essential for the region’s development.

Highlighting the untapped potential of young people, India’s Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Hon. Sarbananda Sonowal said, “The challenge before all of us is to develop and empower young people to enable them to realise their full potential and to contribute to the development of their respective nations.”

Ministers debated and agreed on a number of critical areas relating to young people, such as investment in entrepreneurship, the importance of building life skills and providing alternative education pathways. They also agreed to advocate for adequate financing for youth development at sub-national, national and regional levels. Underscoring the value of youth participation through established national youth councils, ministers noted the lack of resources available to youth-led organisations. They agreed to lend their support through legislation and financial assistance.

Supporting the call by youth leaders, ministers committed to backing a youth-focussed monitoring mechanism for the SDGs, including the disaggregation of data and analysis using the Commonwealth Youth Development Index. Design and implementation of national youth policies was another key topic during discussions.

Ministers reinforced their commitment to youth work, viewing it as an essential component to underpin youth development and empower young people in their communities. They agreed to invest in youth work education and collaborate with the Commonwealth consortium to create a bachelor’s degree in youth development work. Ministers committed to taking a collective, regional approach to peace building and conflict resolution. They noted that young people and youth ministers can play an integral role in promoting friendship, understanding and unity throughout the region.
The world looked on in shock at the disastrous scenes that followed the 7.8 magnitude earthquake which struck Nepal in late April. However, amid the devastation, the response of the international community, especially young people, has been extremely heartening. In the aftermath of the disaster, young people led the way in coordinating aid, volunteering for debris management, and helping those who needed it the most to rebuild their homes.

Natural disasters remind us that we live in a fragile but, at the same time, interconnected and interdependent world. Many examples from history, both recent and distant, show us the devotion and willingness of young people in such catastrophes, going the extra mile to help and save lives.

Yet, youth are often seen as perpetrators of social unrest and not as agents of positive change; perceived as recipients of support rather than equal partners in designing policies and changes. Unemployment, lack of access to resources, and poor-quality education are some of the key issues with which today’s youth are struggling across the world. A top-down policy cannot solely be relied upon to create the fundamental transformations needed to build a shared future. Instead, a bottom-up approach which genuinely listens to youth voices should be pursued. This voice can no longer be ignored, especially with 1.2 billion people in the world today between the ages of 15 and 24 – the largest proportion of youth in history.

UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Education and Peace (MGIEP) is attempting to put youth in the driving seat by co-creating a space which is both youth-led and youth-driven and provides a global platform for a global youth milieu. The Youth for Education, Sustainability and Peace Network (YESPeace) is a network of networks which works with youth organizations and young people around the world by supporting their initiatives and mobilizing youth action towards transforming education as part of the UN’s development agenda. This network aims to create a new social contract by reaching out to the youth, particularly from marginalized communities or areas, thus mobilizing action from a local to a global scale. It provides a channel to bring forth a collective youth voice to policy makers and provide the youth with greater access to the policy-making arena.

There are numerous youth organizations and networks around the world doing outstanding and innovative work in their area of expertise, whether in education, leadership, peace, sustainable development, poverty, music, sports, etc. The YESPeace Network brings them together on one platform to understand and learn from one another, share best practices, have discussions and dialogues on topics and issues they care about, and develop interesting joint action projects. It attempts to break down barriers and bring the discussion surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda outside the conference rooms to every Facebook and Twitter page and in every youth gathering from conferences to a casual afternoon coffee with friends.

The SDGs not only represent a development agenda for the UN, but are also our collective responsibility. The SDGs cannot be achieved purely through political agreements, financial incentives or technological solutions. To be realized, they require changes in the way we think and act. For this, we need innovative education that builds core competencies such as analytical and critical thinking skills and a sense of responsibility and accountability towards the world and its inhabitants. If the youth are going to participate in the process of creating a
more peaceful and sustainable world and fulfill the SDGs, they must have the right tools, human or otherwise, to do it. The YESPeace Network envisages providing them with this platform.

The Young Leaders Programme, which is part of the YESPeace Network initiative, regards leadership as a core function to transform points of view allowing the youth to critically reflect on existing personal assumptions, perspectives and critical awareness. Building youth leadership is to be seen as a learning process to build capacities, capabilities, motivation and action to actively engage the youth at all levels. In order to achieve the 17 goals by 2030, we need to change the way we behave and the way we view our role in the world. We must also engage with the population who has the highest stake in the world’s future: the youth.

UNHCR: Refugee youth keep traditions alive

9-year-old Tamana, a refugee from Afghanistan loves to spend time with the elderly and listen to their stories over a cup of tea. For her, such interactions give their generation an opportunity to know their heritage and traditions in various ways, including song, dance and food.

As a member of the refugee youth club, Yuva, she, along with her group members, regularly organizes events to engage with the elderly refugees in New Delhi. Through UNHCR India’s community mobilization and empowerment programme, refugee youth groups of varied nationalities have been assisting elderly refugees, especially the unaccompanied refugee elderly – elderly persons with no surviving family members.

Formed in 2005, the group comprises 150 youth aged between 13 and 30 years who are involved in activities like music, dance, and community service. They play in a youth band called Yuva Beats, and they also help elderly refugees in their neighborhood access hospital services and ensure medicines are taken on time, purchase and deliver groceries and engage the elderly in constructive dialogues about their culture and heritage. The elderly in return, help the youth recover the loss of the familiar, including language (especially colloquial and dialect), attitudes, values and social structures.

Sharing her experience, Tamana said, “When my grandmother tells me stories of her past, I grow up with history. I understand my traditions and I value my culture. I understand why the Afghan tea is served with almonds by the side, or dipped in it, or how the Afghan carpet is delicately weaved with the soul embedded. I begin to form my sense of belonging through her stories. I understand where my family comes from and where they will always be in their hearts.”

She further said, “As a youth and a granddaughter, these stories shape my identity. And in return, they shape my grandmother’s youthfulness. Relationships and respect have developed out of it. We now have an understanding of one another.”

The refugee youth clubs promote the UN’s goals of enhanced engagement with the youth and sustainable efforts to support the ageing population.

UNHCR India’s implementing partner, Bosco runs youth clubs representing various refugee communities in Delhi. These youth clubs develop campaigns on socially important issues, including education, health and care of elderly.

“The effort to link youth with elderly refugees has brought positive results. Encouraged by such constructive developments, refugee youth clubs have undertaken the responsibility to teach elderly refugees the local language, basic computer skills, weekly physical activities, regular excursion tours to places of historical importance within the city, conduct motivational sessions, thereby, serving as agents of social change in urban refugee settings,” said Anand Kumar of Bosco who has been encouraging them to work for the elderly.
फॉर्से एक वैश्विक एकजुटता अभियान है, जिसकी शुरुआत जैन्द्र समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण से संबंधित संयुक्त सदृश संगठन (यूएन विवेक) ने की है। इसमें पुरुषों और महिलाओं की अग्रणी कार्य के लिए एक जैन्द्र समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण का कार्य किया जाता है। यह अभियान में पुरुषों और महिलाओं के लिए आईआरटी, एसबीएसी और विभिन्न प्रश्नों को जैन्द्र समानता और शक्ति के दोषों में रखा है। इस अभियान में यूएन विवेक विभिन्न प्रश्नों को जैन्द्र समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण के कार्य किया जाता है।

यूएन विवेक सद्भावना दूर निवृत्त किया गया था।

तब से ये दोनों ही व्यक्ति अभियान के प्रणेता रहे हैं। इन्होंने पुरुषों और लड़कों के लिए एक जैन्द्र समानता का कार्य किया। 

उन्होंने संयुक्त मीडिया पर इस अभियान का सूचनेपत्र किया है। अपने काम के जरिए उन्होंने एक संगठन में लोगों को पहुँचाया है। फरहान महावीर ने अपनी इच्छा कम गंवाने के लिए एक जैन्द्र समानता का कार्य किया। फरहान ने अपने बैठकों में महिलाओं की सहायता के लिए काम किया। 

महेंद्र सिंह और जैन्द्र ने जैन्द्र समानता की सहायता के लिए एक जैन्द्र समानता का कार्य किया। 

यह बड़लाव बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। फरहान महावीर के मामले में बाहरी वाले समाज के साथ समय की कहानी नहीं। इस अभियान का कार्य किया जाता है।
भारत में 13 कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों के प्रभावानुक्रम प्रयोगों के एक समूह का फिल्म माध्यम के जरिए सामुदायिक रेडियों को प्रोत्साहन देने का काम करने के लिए 30 जून 2015 को नई दिल्ली में समाप्त किया गया। उनकी फिल्म कम्यूनिटी रेडियो वीडियो चैलेंज 2015 प्रतियोगिता में शामिल की गई थी। इसका आयोजन यूनेस्को को नई दिल्ली कॉमनवेल्थ एक्सप्लोरेशन मीडिया सेंटर फॉर एशिया (सीईएससी) और अधीक्षे इंटरनेशनल ऑफ मास कम्यूनिकेशन (ईआईसी) ने मिलकर किया था। इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में आयोजित पर्यावरण समारोह में मीडिया संगठनों, सामुदायिक मीडिया कार्यकर्ताओं, विद्यार्थियों, विद्यार्थियों, विकास एजुकेशन और गैंडर-सरकारी संगठनों के 100 से अधिक प्रतियोगियों ने हिस्सा लिया।

कम्यूनिटी रेडियो वीडियो चैलेंज 2015 की शुरुआत 2013 में यूनेस्को और सीईएससी ने की थी। इसका उद्देश्य सामुदायिक रेडियो, विषय अभियंता, सीखने और स्वास्थ्य समुदायों के विकास में सामुदायिक रेडियो की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका के बारे में जागरूकता प्रदर्शन करने के लिए युवाओं से समर्पित हिमायत का कारकियत चलाना था।

प्रतियोगिता के दृश्य संस्करण सीआरवीसी 2015 में “कम्यूनिटी रेडियो सिटिज़न्स वॉय्ज़र एमवर्ल्ड सोसाइटीज” विषय पर ओव्न मिनट का लघु फिल्म आमित की गई।

भारत, बांग्लादेश, मलावान और श्रीलंका के राज्यों के लागु सामुदायिक रेडियो वीडियो ने पुरस्कार समारोह में एक रूप में सामुदायिक रेडियो के रूप में विभाजित किए गए। भारत में सामुदायिक रेडियो अंडर 30 वर्ष की आयु के सामुदायिक रेडियो की शुरुआत 1990 के दशक में शुरु की गई थी और इस अंडरलैंड का लागू होने के लिए निर्माण में लिया जाने के लिए सामुदायिक रेडियो ने एक बड़ी तरह से मदद करने के लिए अधिक प्रतियोगियों ने हिस्सा लिया।

सुजूना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय तथा संस्कृति मंत्रालय में सावधान रहे चुके, प्रसिद्ध उद्यम भारतीय घोष इस आयोजन में मुख्य अधिकारियों में और उन्होंने सामुदायिक रेडियो से तात्कालिक सफर को अनुमान का सीखा है। इन रेडियो से विलय ने अंडरलैंड के अनुसरण का तर्क दिया और इस उद्यम से माहिती दी जो माहिती में सामुदायिक रेडियो से हुई उल्लेखनीय परिवर्तन का आंकड़ा दिखा।

कितने श्री घोष ने ज्यादा कहा था, स्मार्टफोन जिस तरह, रेडियो, रिकॉर्डिंग के साथ और अन्य मीडिया अनुप्रयोगों को संदेश का दिनोंदिन सार्वजनिक स्तर पर जा रहा है उससे सामुदायिक रेडियो ने अपने पसंदीदा और मीडिया के संगीतकों को ऐसे अच्छे अंदाज में लिया कि कोई कथन कर नहीं लेता है।

इस अंदाज पर वर्तमान के एक सबसे लोकप्रिय रेडियो गानों, जो एक हजार 93.5 के बारे में रॉक ने निश्चित अंतिक्रिया के रूप में भाषण दिया। उन्होंने लोगों ने इन रेडियो के समय से जोड़े जोड़ने से जनता का उल्लेख किया। रॉक ने आयोजन के दौरान एक फ्लोरा एवं दूसरी सामुदायिक रेडियो के समय से कूटनीतिक अंदाज सुनाए जिनसे पता लगा कि रेडियो केस्ट तथा त्र्यामण शासन को कमजोर करने, स्थानीय निकायों की दुरुपाय सुधारने और मिलकर समय-समय सुलझाने में विभिन्न संस्थाओं को काफिला करने में मदद करता है। रॉक ने अंदाज में कहा कि अगर सिम्बल रेडियो स्टेशनों के रेडियो जोड़ी कुछ समय सामुदायिक रेडियो स्टेशनों को दे तो वे और सामुदायिक रेडियोकर्मी एकत्र करने के अनुच्छेद बांट सकेंगे और शीर्ष स्थान, जिससे दोनों को लाभ होगा।
यूनाईटेड नेशनल वालिटियर्स (यूनूसी) कार्यक्रम स्वयं सेवा भवन के जरिए शाति और विकास में सहायता है। यूनूसी को इस धारणा से प्रेरणा मिली है कि स्वयं सेवा की गति और स्वरूप को बदल जा सकता है। उसे इस विचार से भी बल मिला है कि शाति और विकास के लिए हर कोई अपना समय और शक्ति दे सकता है। 2014 में यूनूसी ने युवाओं को स्वयं सेवा की तरफ आकर्षित करने के लिए युवा स्वयं सेवा रणनीति जारी की थी।

भारत में यूनूसी के लिए नोटिस मंत्रालय युवा कार्य और खेत मंत्रालय है। यूनूसीकी के साथ भारीसीरिय के दोनों संभाषण संघ उन्होंने में स्वयं सेवा की मार्ग जगाने तथा विकास से जियो अभियान का काम कर रहा है। युवाओं के विकास पर नजर रखने के लिए राष्ट्रीय युवा वालिटियर्स (यूनूसी) बोर्ड है। राष्ट्रीय विकास भवन बैठक का आयोजन राष्ट्रीय मंत्रालय विकास ने किया है और भारत सरकार के लिए प्रत्येक एवं खेत संगठन ने उनको मदद की। 27–30 जुलाई 2015 को आयोजित इस समांनल का विज्ञापन था "यूनूसी पाठ्यपत्र एवं डिटेल्स एंड डेटा अपडेट" गाई टिकाऊ विकास का मूल भंडार युवा मानी जाती है।

फिर दो दिन में युवा नेताओं ने 8 एशियाई राष्ट्रीय विकास सदन देशों, बीजेवेस, ब्लेन्ड, भारत, बलिया, बेस्टली, पाकिस्तान, सीपीएचए और श्रीलंका में युवाओं की सामूहिक आवाज़ की पूर्व बढ़ाने का अपना संबंध बनाया। दो कार्यों दल मिलता किये गये जिनका कार्य आयुष्मान युवा मंत्री बैठक के लिए युवा नेताओं की तरफ से सिफारिशें तैयार करना था। इनमें से एक का संयोजन राष्ट्रीय यूनूसी प्रत्येक ने स्वयं से किया।

इन सिफारिशों के आधार पर युवा ग्रोपों तैयार की गई। इन युवाओं के लिए रोल्ग्राम तैयार किया गया। इन युवाओं के लिए एशियाई राष्ट्रीय विकास सरकार लिए अवसरों के लिए तैयार किए गए। इन साधनों में शामिल हैं, जीवन व्यवस्था निगम, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय निर्माण, विश्वविद्यालय के विकास और अन्य राष्ट्रीय विकास के विकास के लिए, देश के बीच वित्त कार्य है।
यूनेस्को एमजीआईई: युवाओं की आवाजों का उपयोग

पाने में आईसी के अंत में 78 परिषद के मुकमम से हुई तत्त्वात्मक के दृश्य देखकर दुनिया सबक रह गई।

इस विनाशकारी के बीच अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय विषय के युवाओं ने इसके राह में कदम करने के लिए बहुत उम्मीद जताई है। तत्त्वात्मक के बाद सहायता के तालमेल के तरीके तरीके करने, नए लोगों ने इस तरीके के लिए एक स्थायी संस्था बनाने के लिए नया जोड़कर मदद करने की सहायता करने की विश्वसनीयता उठाने में युवा सबके आगे रखा।

फिर भी युवाओं को सार्थक बदलता का एजेंट नहीं बनाना सामाजिक असंतुष्ट बढ़ाने वाला, नीतियों और परीक्षण की स्पष्टता तैयार करने में भाग में अभावी के विभाग के बाबत सहायता पाने वाला माना जाता है। बेहतर गृहयोजनाओं, संस्थाओं की दुनियाका इकाइयों की अनुमति और खाना सदर की स्थिति का सृजन खुल ऐसे

यूनेस्को यूनायटेड नेटवर्क के द्वारा यूनायटेड राष्ट्र के 12 अक्टूबर 2015 के आयुक्त में है। यह यूनाईटेड इंटरेस्ट में युवाओं का सार्थक बदलता का एजेंट नहीं बनाना सामाजिक असंतुष्ट बढ़ाने वाला, नीतियों के लिए एक यूनायटेड राष्ट्र के मुकमम से हुई तत्त्वात्मक के दृश्य देखकर दुनिया सबक रह गई। तत्त्वात्मक के बाद सहायता के तालमेल के तरीके तरीके करने, नए लोगों ने इस तरीके के लिए एक स्थायी संस्था बनाने के लिए नया जोड़कर मदद करने की सहायता करने की विश्वसनीयता उठाने में युवा सबके आगे रखा।

युवाओं को सार्थक बदलता का एजेंट नहीं बनाना सामाजिक असंतुष्ट बढ़ाने वाला, नीतियों और परीक्षण की स्पष्टता तैयार करने में भाग में अभावी के विभाग के बाबत सहायता पाने वाला माना जाता है। बेहतर गृहयोजनाओं, संस्थाओं की दुनियाका इकाइयों की अनुमति और खाना सदर की स्थिति का सृजन खुल ऐसे
काफीला से आई शरणार्थियों का प्रायोजन 19 वर्षों की तमन्ना को बुझाने के साथ वक्त तितलिया और चर्चा पीटे-पीटे उनकों किसानों के साथ बढ़ता आते आता है। उनका मनुष्यता और अनुसूचिक इकाई के मार्ग में जानने का अनुपार्थिकता निर्माण है। इसमें नाग-गंगा और खाना चौथा मानक है।

शरणार्थी युवा कल्याण, युवा की सदर्श्य होने के नाते वह अपने समूह के सदस्य के साथ नई दिशा में बुझाने और शरणार्थी युवा की जनता के साथ प्रवर्तित करते है। युवा एक जनता और बालक-बालिका के साथ एक साधन के लिए विभिन्न दोषों से आर्थ युवा शरणार्थी बुझाने की आवश्यक है। क्योंकि वर्तमान की तरह सबसे अधिक असंगति है।

2005 में गठित युवा कल्याण 13 से 30 वर्ष के बीच की आई के 150 युवा, जो संस्थापक, ने और विभिन्न समूहों के साथ गठित किया। तब युवा की जनता नई दिशा में गठित करते है। इसके बाद में युवा शरणार्थी ठोस और आत्मविश्वास की अवसरों के साथ बढ़ती आती है।

2030 की तिथि से ती सुनाम का शरणार्थी की तारीख के साथ मनमोहक आवश्यकता है। युवा कल्याण अभियान के बाद में ध्वनि खोलने के अपरिहार्य विनिमय किया है। इसमें दिल्ली, इलाहाबाद और बुझाने की देशमात जैसे विश्व शामिल है।

युवा को युवा कल्याण के लिए काम करने की प्रेरणा देने वाले बालकों के आनंद कुमार का कहना था, "युवा और शरणार्थी को आपके बाद में जोड़ने के अपने उत्साह मिलें। इसके बाद में अनुशंसा परिवारों से प्रेरित होकर युवा शरणार्थी कन्नू ने शरणार्थी को स्वदेशी भाषा, कस्तूर बुझाने के बाद में जोड़ने के अपने उत्साह मिलें। इसके बाद में अनुशंसा परिवारों से प्रेरित होकर युवा शरणार्थी कन्नू ने शरणार्थी को स्वदेशी भाषा, कस्तूर बुझाने के बाद में जोड़ने के अपने उत्साह मिलें। इसके बाद में अनुशंसा परिवारों से प्रेरित होकर युवा शरणार्थी कन्नू ने शरणार्थी को स्वदेशी भाषा, कस्तूर बुझाने के बाद में जोड़ने के अपने उत्साह मिलें। इसके बाद में अनुशंसा परिवारों से प्रेरित होकर युवा शरणार्थी कन्नू ने शरणार्थी को स्वदेशी भाषा, कस्तूर बुझाने के बाद में जोड़ने के अपने उत्साह मिलें।
Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, presented his credentials to the Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) on 31 July and assumed charge as the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India.

Welcoming Mr. Afanasiev to India, the Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) noted the close partnership between India and the United Nations. Thanking the Honourable Minister, Mr. Afanasiev said, “I firmly believe that the next decade or two are “India’s decades” and while the challenges are formidable, so is the momentum. I trust the UN will continue being a strong and trusted partner to the Government of India and the diverse Indian nation, as it has in the past.”

Buddhist monasteries across the world possess treasures and artefacts of high historical and market value which are vulnerable to thefts and illicit trafficking due to lack of security measures and documentation techniques with the caretakers. Moreover, the art objects are also exposed to risks arising out of natural and man-made disasters. The monasteries in Bhutan are no exception and face similar incidents every now and then. Considering the relevance of the above risks rampant in the region, UNESCO New Delhi Culture Sector, with endorsement from the Department of Culture, Government of Bhutan facilitated the first training workshop on digital inventorying for the treasure caretakers and other stakeholders of the monasteries and nunneries from 18-24 May at Institute of Language and Cultural Studies, Taktse, Bhutan. The training programme was conceptualized...
Advocating youth happiness without drugs and alcohol

“I was 12 when my friends suggested that we try marijuana in an old hut,” remembered a recovering drug addict as he shared his experiences on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking campaign on 26 June. The young recovering addict shared how that ‘first dose’ did the damage and led to his addiction.

However, today he is clean and sober working as a counselor on drug addiction. Recognizing the need to address such addiction problems, the Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency (BNCA) and the Youth Development Fund (YDF) led the “Together we can: Happiness without Drugs and Alcohol” campaign supported by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Her Majesty the Queen Mother, Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck launched the campaign along with senior government officials, representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations and over 500 students from schools in Thimphu.

In her keynote address, Her Majesty said that Bhutan is one of the highest per capita consumer of alcohol in South Asia and that the rising trend of drugs and alcohol, is putting Bhutan at the risk of losing productive citizens.

According to police records, last year alone, police arrested 950 people in connection with drugs, of which 58 percent were youth. There was a 30 percent increase in cases involving possession of controlled substances. Today, there are 284 drug traffickers and 382 drug abusers serving their sentences in the country.

Supported by UNICEF, BNCA and YDF have also developed a Communications for Development (C4D) strategy to enhance knowledge and change the behavior of the youth, parents and rehabilitation service providers on substance abuse.

The strategy also seeks to garner support, commitment and action from relevant government agencies, NGOs, CSOs, families and the young people themselves.

However, along with support from various sectors, the recovering addict said that it ultimately depends on individual choice. “Miracles happen to those, who are honest, open-minded, and are willing to change”, he said.

Cultivating a new generation of food security guardians

Over the last decade, 553 primary and higher secondary schools in Bhutan have started school gardening programmes as part of the schools’ club activities which has helped balance diets in boarding schools in the country.

But, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) recognizes that more needs to be done to sustain school feeding programmes. FAO Bhutan is currently piloting the Farm to School (F2S) programme with farmer-groups to produce and supply vegetables to schools.

The programme promotes schools as institutions where children appreciate and learn science and technology behind agriculture and not just provide physical labor.

To further expand the impacts of this initiative, the FAO organized a regional consultation in Bangkok to promote school and home gardening. Bhutan was represented by BB Rai from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and Desang Dorji, Ministry of Education who look
after the school agriculture programmes in their respective ministries. During the consultation, FAO member countries and partners agreed that the knowledge gained and harvests reaped from home and school gardens could ‘dramatically improve’ child nutrition. Hiroyuki Konuma, the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative said, “Local food production, such as integrated home gardens and school gardens, can have immediate impact on food security and long term national goals of better nutrition.”

According to a Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM), Bhutan’s food insecurity is one of the main causes of poverty. As of 2011, Bhutan imported over 11,619 MT of vegetables annually worth Nu. 170 million that necessitated interventions on food security. This need was more pronounced following directives from the Cabinet during the 2011 rupee crunch in the country to pursue food production and, in particular, vegetables for self-sufficiency and imports substitution.

Based on similar contexts, FAO’s regional consultation found home and school gardens to be the best ways to stimulate development of home gardens while serving as a platform for basic agricultural knowledge and skills in agriculture and farming.

Globally, despite significant progress over the past two decades, 161 million children around the world have chronic under-nutrition out of which half live in Asia. Nearly 100 million children are still underweight.

Poor nutrition, researchers reveal, disrupts physical and cognitive growth and development of children, thus impeding their educational achievement in school. In the long run, this could have a ripple effect on prospects for good health, well-being, achievement and productivity as children enter adulthood.

The forum also recognized that variety, micro-nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables can make a huge difference in the health and growth of mothers and young children.

Co-organized by FAO and WHO, the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) that was held last year strongly prioritized nutrition and improvement of diets across all populations as part of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action adopted by the Conference. Improving child nutrition and malnutrition will remain priorities as part of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Youth mark World Population Day

Exposure to media and modern culture strongly increases the probability of pregnancy among young Bhutanese girls according to the seventh series Monograph on Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youths in Bhutan. The report was launched on July 11, World Population Day, by the National Statistics Bureau with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bhutan, Respect Educate Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW) and the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH).

Reflecting the 2015 World Population Day theme, ‘Vulnerable Women and Girls in Emergencies’, the report highlights insightful data on young women and girls in Bhutan.

The theme was adopted to address issues of over 60 million people being displaced by crises, globally. Stressing the need to address the vulnerabilities of women and girls, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon said, “These women are far from just victims. They have hopes, plans and the potential to make important contributions to our common future.”

The event was graced by Her Majesty the Queen Mother, Gyelyum Sangay Choden Wangchuk. Among the participants were the UNFPA Deputy Representative for Bhutan and India, Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka, Health Minister Tandin Wangchuk, the National Assembly Speaker Jigme Zangpo, Health Ministry Secretary Dasho Dori Wangchuk and Home Ministry Secretary Dasho Sonam Tenzin and parliamentarians.

More than 100 Youth-Peer Education Network (Y-Peer Education Network) members and students from Faculty of Nursing and Public Health also joined the programme. Apart from raising awareness on vulnerabilities of women and girls in emergencies, two UNFPA Bhutan staff members were also awarded certificates of recognition for 10 years of service to the organization.
A new web site that seeks to focus on women’s safety issues was launched on 8 August in Mumbai during International Youth Day week. The website, shesays.in, developed in partnership with UNIC and the German Consulate in Mumbai, is a useful compilation of laws, procedures and common sense measures women can take to ensure their safety in cities. Launching the website founder Trisha Shetty said: “Unfortunately we’ve built a tolerance towards sexual offences. We need to learn to say NO from the very beginning, from the first act where a woman’s privacy is breached.”

Several eminent personalities spoke at the launch event. Addressing the youth audience, Member of Parliament Dr. Satyapal Singh said: “We have an illustrious past, heritage and culture. But we aren’t teaching the right values today,” to which the event hosts, Karan Talwar and Brijul renowned comedians and youth influencers countered with: “Looking back, couldn’t it be possible that sexual abuse was still rampant but now, more so than ever, society is speaking up vocally against it hence the increase in reported cases.”

A panel discussing the theme ‘Equal and Full Participation of Women is the Greatest Unfinished Business of the 21st Century’ had radio host Erica D’souza in conversation with Anju Pandey, Head, Ending Violence Against Women, UN Women. Zarina Screwvala, Managing Trustee, Swades Foundation and Robin Chaurasiya, Social Activist & Founder, Kranti discussing if in fact women had gone from being anonymous to autonomous, and probed the role of economic empowerment in the larger question of women’s empowerment.

Chancellor of Kalasalingam University in Tamil Nadu, Thiru Sridharan said that educational institutions need to incorporate women safety as part of their curriculum.

UNIC NIO Rajiv Chandran moderated the panel on ‘Analysing the Current Culture and Attitude towards Sexism and Gender.’ He advocated inclusiveness and diversity as key UN values, and warned against “crushing the rainbow.” Parmesh Shahani, Head, Godrej India Culture Lab said that the concept of India was too wonderfully big to be looked upon in any monochromatic way.

Dr. Nandita Shah, CoDirector, Akshara Centre, spoke of the need for activism that would redress the imbalances of present times.

Legal luminary Mrunalini Deshmukh advocated the need for a uniform civil code as a tool for gender equality. Elaborating on the findings of the Justice Verma Committee, Ms. Deshmukh supported the proposed legislation on marital rape and emphatically stated:

“Rape is a rape, irrespective of whether within marriage or outside.”

Mr. Chandran thanked the team responsible for putting the website together: Neha Shetty (Co- founder), Nishiki Bhavnani (Operations Director), Krutika Pursnani (Outreach Coordinator) and Natasha Dalal (Website Developer).

women.safety highlighted on SheSays web site

www.shesays.in
UNIC in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Association of Media Libraries and Archives (AMLA), and the Delhi Library Association (DLA), organized a one-day seminar on *Youth and Development: Role of Media, Knowledge Networks and Libraries* on 11 August 2015, in New Delhi.

In his inaugural remarks, UNIC National Information Officer Rajiv Chandran highlighted how libraries and media could get more and more youth engaged with the SDGs. In his introductory remarks, AMLA President Dharam Vir explained the scope of the conference.

Chief Guest Prof. B.K. Kuthiala, Vice-Chancellor of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism & Communication, Bhopal, spoke on the phenomenal knowledge-seeking changes taking place with innovations in technology. He emphasized that media and libraries should continue to engage youth with values and that the SDGs represented the new global values.

Guest of Honour Prof. P.B. Mangla, Tagore National Fellow, Ministry of Culture, spoke about the role played by youth in several stellar movements that brought about dramatic changes in Indian society. With their potential to craft radical changes, we must continue to explore how their potential could be channelled into meaningful activities. Delivering the theme address, JNU Librarian Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur spoke on how modern library networks could catalyse youth to embrace change.

The seminar continued through the day with different panels being convened.
On 15 July 2015, UNIC New Delhi partnered with the World Federation of UN Associations for a conference training teachers around global citizenship. Bringing together 25 teachers from around the country, including cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and more, the conference was an experiential learning program to help educators create globally aware citizens in their classrooms.

UNIC participated by conducting a session for the attendees, opening with Director Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman. Addressing the teachers, she introduced them to the work of the UN Information Centre, its goals, projects, and achievements. UNIC’s work with partners was highlighted, particularly with the examples of partnership with WFUNA in March for the Youth Seminar in Jaipur, and the launch of the WFUNA Foundation in New Delhi. The Director also emphasized the importance of disseminating UN values like peace, justice, equality, diversity, and freedom.

The Director’s address was followed by a brief session by Model UN Coordinator Sanjana Manaktala on the UN4MUN approach to Model UN Conferences. Ms. Manaktala explained certain details of the procedure, within the context of why each change was needed. The UN4MUN approach seeks to provide Model UNs with a standard format that accurately reflects the structure and function of UN organs, such as the General Assembly and the Security Council. This format corrects many of the errors, imbalances, and violations of UN principles that are perpetuated by conventionally popular Model UN procedures, such as UNA-USA, THIMUN, Harvard, IIMUN etc.

Subsequently, Dr. R. K. Sharma, the UNIC Librarian delivered a presentation on the use and value of library resources and how youth could benefit through these copious and well-researched resources.

The session concluded with a presentation by UNIC’s National Information Officer Rajiv Chandran, who highlighted the UN values that inform the Sustainable Development Goals that would soon be adopted by the UNGA.

UNIC organized a workshop in the UN4MUN approach with trainers and peer educators from Brainwiz, a student-run education company with a foothold in organizing and training in Model UNs. The workshop, hosted at UN House, aimed to reach out to those who are in a position of influencing the participants in Model UNs towards a more holistic and realistic approach.

UNIC MUN Coordinator, Sanjana Manaktala discussed the present state of Model UNs in India and how they inaccurately depict the UN. She elaborated on the actual functioning of the UN General Assembly and stressed on the importance of the negotiation and implementation phases of the decisions taken at the committees, something that the traditional procedures don’t pay much attention to. Stressing on the principles of sovereign equality and consensus-based decision-making as the cornerstones of the functioning of the UN, she explained other distinctive features of the approach including leadership roles, procedural observances and unanimous action.

National Information Officer Rajiv Chandran highlighted that MUN participants should also learn about different nations and encourage them to work together to achieve desirable ends, which is the true essence of Model UNs.

The workshop concluded with the trainers sharing their experiences with the traditional procedure and their insights and best case practices for implementing the UN4MUN approach at a large-scale.
Springdales School Pusa Road outshone itself yet another time during Mandela Day celebrations. This day is the culmination of the school’s Africa Week and since it has a special relationship with Nelson Mandela, it prides itself on the activities undertaken to celebrate.

Mrs. Ameeta M. Wattal, Principal of the school warmly welcomed all the guests and described how the school had been linked with South Africa since its very early days and that it was proud to say that Mr. Mandela had visited it during his India trip. A short clip of Mahatma Gandhi facing discrimination as a young lawyer in South Africa was also screened.

The students showcased a multi-media presentation, the Cradle of Humankind, on the evolution of mankind in Africa. This was part of a competition initiated by the schools in the NCR region. Then we saw a beautifully choreographed poetry recital by a group of girls.

Hope for Peace, with very endearing costumes, followed by a short introduction to Mr. Mandela and then foot-tapping music and African singing by the school choir of Wamklele Wamkile.

Mr. Stefanus A. Botes, Minister Counsellor of the High Commission of South Africa in New Delhi spoke wonderfully of the South African experience and his years growing up there, the end of Apartheid, Mr. Mandela’s release from prison and the South Africa of today. He also told the students that tomorrow they would be the generation of businesspersons and entrepreneurs so they should look at South Africa as a modern destination in that context also.

UNIC Director, Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman delivered the message of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: “The theme behind the Day – “Take action. Inspire change” – highlights the importance of working together to build a peaceful, sustainable and equitable world,” he said. He also announced that the UN is bestowing the first ever Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, established by the UN General Assembly. This honorary award will be presented every five years to two individuals – a man and a woman – who through their dedication, hard work and compassion have built on Madiba’s legacy.

Mrs. Mehra-Kerpelman congratulated the students on their amazing artwork on Africa. “You are all so fortunate to be part of this illustrious school,” she said. “You are talented, expressive and committed. Use those advantages to pass on something to someone who may be less privileged...and as India’s youth, be the changemakers, starting in this 70th anniversary year for the United Nations, make a positive impact on the lives of others,” she added.

Other diplomats from various African countries also attended.

His Excellency F.K. Morule, High Commissioner, South African Embassy graced the occasion, which was held at the India International Centre, New Delhi. He spoke of the South African struggle for equality and highlighted the country’s strong connection with India, cemented by Mahatma Gandhi in the previous century.

UNIC Director Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman delivered the message of the Secretary-General saying, “Nelson Mandela gave 67 years of his life to the struggle for human rights and social justice. The United Nations joins the Mandela Foundation in asking people around the world to devote at least 67 minutes of their time on 18 July – Madiba’s birthday – to a community service activity. As the United Nations marks its seventieth anniversary, there is no better time to reflect on the life and work of Mr. Mandela, who embodied the highest values of the United Nations.”

Other speakers included Shri Satyabrata Pal, former Indian High Commissioner to South Africa; Prof. Ajay Kumar Dubey, Chairperson, Centre for African Studies, JNU and General Secretary, African Studies Association of India; and Shri Suhas Borker, Convener, Working Group on Alternative Strategies.

Students enacted a musical drama that brought to the audience the struggle of the apartheid movement and the rock like belief and determination of Madiba.

UNIC signs MOU with ERAM Animation Lab to promote SDGs

In an innovative partnership with the private sector, the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan (UNIC) signed an MOU with ERAM Animation Labs (EAL) by which EAL will create a series of animation films on the theme of ‘Save Mother Earth’. Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman, UNIC Director and Dr. Siddeek Ahmed, Chairman and Managing Director of Eram Group signed the MOU at UN House in New Delhi.
Since 2007, UNIC has promoted a 12-day Peace to Non-Violence campaign, from International Day of Peace on 21 September until International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October.

**International Day of Peace** was first marked on 21 September 1982, to coincide with the opening session of the UN General Assembly deliberations, with the aim of “commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.” Every year at the UN Headquarters in New York, the day is inaugurated by the ringing of the Peace Bell, which was forged with coins donated by children across the world, as a grim reminder of the human costs of war.

**International Day of Non-Violence** has been commemorated on 2 October since 2007, to honour Mahatma Gandhi, on his birthday – a day which we celebrate in India as Gandhi Jayanti. It aims at acknowledging the Mahatma’s commitment to the principle of ahimsa (non-violence). “Desiring to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence,” the UN General Assembly invited States, UN bodies, regional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals to commemorate the Day.

UNIC invites schools, universities and NGOs to organize events as part of this campaign. We hope that many institutions will join our campaign by organizing various events all over India through this 12-day period.

The idea is to engage students and youth to enhance their understanding of the fuller meaning of the concept of peace, and recognizing the power of everyday action.

Be creative and design activities that truly reflect the values of the UN – cooperation, tolerance and equal rights for all.

**Organize your Peace and Non-Violence promotion activities during the 12-day period between 21 September and 2 October, 2015.**

Activities and events can include, but are not limited to:
- Peace marches
- Sports events and tournaments
- Lectures, seminars, panel discussions, group discussions and debate competitions on themes such as:
  - Peace education: Designing activities to teach tolerance
  - Women’s rights: Participation in peace-building
  - Women’s rights: Action to end everyday violence
  - Children’s rights: Action to end child abuse etc.
- Quiz competitions on themes of peace and non-violence
- Arts and craft exhibitions
- Cultural performances or competitions
- Multi-lingual activities to build respect for other cultures
- Workshops, activities and video/movie screenings to build peace and tolerance among students

Do remember to share your campaign reports and photographs with us at unic.india@unic.org

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Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth will be visiting India between 25-29 August, 2015.

http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/about/

**UN Youth Envoy to visit India**