

Rio+20: Making it Happen

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Quote

"The aim of Rio+20 is to ensure we stay true to the promises we made and move ahead on implementation at an accelerated pace." - Conference Secretary-General Sha Zukang

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Helen Clark (left), Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and Mbaranga Gasarabwe (right), UNDP Resident Coordinator for Mali, visit a small-scale mango farm in Mali run and owned by women.
UN Photo/UNDP

Rural Women: Drivers of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

While rural women have enormous untapped potential to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication, they lack equal access to opportunities and resources, which will help generate results, notes Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a [message](#) marking this year's [International Day of Rural Women](#), to be observed tomorrow, 15 October.

According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), if rural women had the same access to productive resources as men, then more than 100 million people could be lifted out of poverty. Mr. Ban also citing FAO stated, "Productivity on women's farms would increase up to 30 per cent and the number of hungry people would drop by as much as 17 per cent, which translates into improvements for up to 150 million individuals."

He added, "let us remember that rural women have enormous untapped potential to generate results," as we head towards Rio+20.

As established by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136 of 18 December 2007, the

[International Day of Rural Women](#) was first observed on 15 October 2008. The Day raises awareness to "the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty."

In a related event, the United Nations will commemorate the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) on 17 October 2011, under the theme: "From Poverty to Sustainability: People at the Centre of Inclusive Development," to draw attention to the importance of poverty eradication in building a sustainable future for all.

Delhi Ministerial Dialogue: Green Economy and Inclusive Growth

3-4 October 2011, New Delhi, India - Over 150 participants, including 24 ministers (14 from developing countries) and 12 eminent experts attended the [Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'](#), the previous week. The meeting, organized by the Rio+20 Secretariat and India's Ministry of Environment and Forests, focused on creating green economies in the context of poverty eradication, sustainable development and inclusive growth in developing countries.

In his concluding remarks, Conference Secretary-General Sha Zukang said, "we have shed a bright light on a very important topic – how building green economies can benefit the poor" and provide sustainable livelihoods. "The Delhi Dialogue is an important milestone on the road to Rio," he added.



Conference Secretary-General Sha Zukang with Indian Minister of Environment and Forests, Jayanthi Natrajan
Photo: UNDESA/DSO

UN Office for Sustainable Development to Open in South Korea

With Rio+20 just eight months away, the UNDESA will officially launch a new UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 19 October 2011. The Office, housed in Yonsei University, is co-sponsored by the UNDESA, the Korean Ministry of Environment, the City of Incheon and Yonsei University.

It will serve as training and research institution and a centre for pooling together all knowledge on sustainable development. In addition, it will provide a sustainable development knowledge portal uniquely integrating the three pillars of sustainable development—economic growth, improving the quality of life, and protecting the environment.

As a resource center, it will also provide training and capacity building by organizing training programmes for national representatives and major groups from developing countries to advance the sustainable development agenda and enhance the implementation of sustainable development goals and targets.

The event will be attended by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under Secretary-General, UNDESA and Rio+20 Secretary-General and Mr. Yoo Young Sook, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea and other high-level officials.

Regional Preparatory Meetings



Significant progress has been made by UN DESA and UNDP to support Rio+20 national preparations, including the organization of training sessions and side events at the margins of the regional preparatory meetings.

These trainings will serve as opportunities for experience-sharing on the national preparatory processes, as well as gathering of case studies and good practices in the area of sustainable development. The outcomes will feed into input at both regional and national levels.

Interested UN entities could participate in these workshops and share information on their engagement in supporting national preparations in the following regions:

West Asia Region

15 October 2011, Cairo, Egypt

Contact: Thomas Hamlin, <hamlin@un.org>

Africa Region

19 October 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Contact: Thomas Hamlin, <hamlin@un.org>

Asia and the Pacific Region

19 October 2011, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Contact: Keneti Faulalu, <faulalo@un.org>

Don't miss...

...the **1 November 2011** deadline for the submission of inputs and contributions to the compilation document. This will serve as basis for the preparation of a zero draft of the outcome document for Rio+20.

Submissions can be sent electronically to the Rio+20 Secretariat. More information at: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/inputs>

In Indonesia, Youth Pump Up the Volume for Rio+20

1 October 2011, Bandung, Indonesia - Over 1,400 children and youth delegates from over 100 countries participated in the five-day TUNZA International Children and Youth Conference on the Environment, hosted by UNEP with the support of the several UN entities.

In the outcome document, also known as the Bandung Declaration, the participants laid out children and youths' commitment to the following action plan over the next eight months to Rio+20:



Youth participants at the TUNZA Conference
Photo Credit: UNEP

-Lobby their governments to make Rio+20 Earth Summit a top priority;

-Adopt more sustainable lifestyles and reduce their ecological footprints;

-Educate their communities and raise awareness about sustainable production and consumption;

-Support the work of young scientists and entrepreneurs that is geared towards Green Economy solutions;

-Contribute to the global, regional and national discussions on sustainable development

The Bandung Declaration will be communicated to Rio+20 by the Government of Indonesia and UNEP by the deadline for submissions of 1 November 2011.

Upcoming Events

UNCCD 10th Conference of the Parties (COP-10), UNCCD Secretariat

10 - 21 October 2011

Changwon, Republic of Korea

[\[more information\]](#)

Nigerian Youth Summit on Sustainable Development - SustainNIGERIA

14 - 15 October 2011

Abuja, Nigeria

[\[more information\]](#)

Rio+20 Preparatory Meeting in the Arab Region

16 -17 October 2011

Cairo, Egypt

[\[more information\]](#)

Major Groups & Stakeholders

Asia-Pacific Meeting 'The Road to Rio 2012: Charting our Path'

17 - 18 October 2011

Seoul, Republic of Korea

[\[more information\]](#)

Annual UN Civil Society Focal Point Meeting

17 - 18 October 2011

Rome, Italy

[\[more information\]](#)

Rio+20 Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific

19 - 20 October 2011

Seoul, Republic of Korea

[\[more information\]](#)

Rio+20 Preparatory Meeting for Africa

20 - 25 October 2011

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[\[more information\]](#)

GURN/ITUC on 'A Green Economy that Works for Social Progress'

24 - 25 October 2011

Brussels, Belgium

[\[more information\]](#)

High-Level Expert Group Meeting on Using Green Agriculture to Stimulate Economic Growth and Eradicate Poverty

25 - 27 October 2011

Ramat Gan, Israel

[\[more information\]](#)

Complete listing of meetings and events available at www.uncsd2012.org