

December 2015



## COP21: Global agreement to tackle climate change “an unprecedented opportunity to keep the planet safe”



The new global climate change agreement reached on 12 December, “is an unprecedented opportunity to keep the planet safe, and sends a strong signal that countries, rich and poor, are committed to work together to tackle climate change,” [said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark](#) at the conclusion of the two-week summit, held in Paris, France.

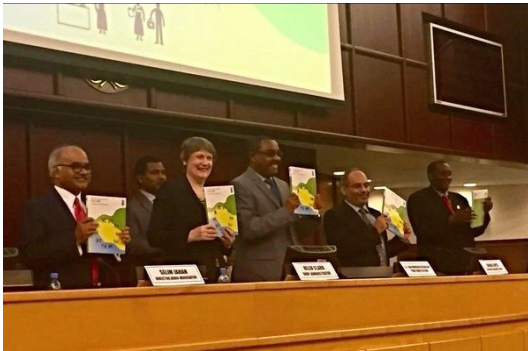
More than 190 countries supported the [Paris Agreement](#) that establishes a goal to limit the world’s average temperature increase to “well below 2 degrees Celsius” in relation to pre-industrial levels, driving efforts to stop it at 1.5 degrees Celsius. In addition, the Agreement calls on developed countries to provide USD 100 billion per year to support developing countries adapt to climate change, and refers to international cooperation to assist countries at risk of harm by climate change, the so-called “loss and damage”.

Currently over 180 countries have made pledges to decrease carbon emissions and 187 have already presented strategies to curb emissions within the next ten to 15 years. As a first step in

implementing the Paris Agreement, UN Secretary Ban Ki-moon will convene a high level signing ceremony in New York on 22 April 2016.

For what the Paris Agreement means for Africa, see UNDP Africa's Aliou Dia's blog below.

## Human Development Report 2015 rethinks work for human development



Over the past 25 years, more than 2 billion people have been lifted out of low human development and more than a billion people have escaped extreme poverty, and work has contributed to this progress, according to the [2015 Human Development Report, \*Work for Human Development\*](#), launched on 14 December in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and UNDP Administrator Helen Clark.

The report addresses work in its various dimensions – creative, voluntary and unpaid activities included – and identifies trends and imbalances in the work environment, including amongst women and men, and calls for equitable and decent opportunities for all.

The report finds that globalization and technological innovations are changing the world of work. Demographic shifts and environmental challenges deepen changes in the nature of work and stress the need for a shift towards green solutions. Meanwhile, gender-based inequalities persist. Women earn globally, on average, 24% less than men, and occupy less than a quarter of senior business positions worldwide.

The report finds that human development gains are more unevenly distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa than in any other region, and that while income inequalities are high, they are higher in health and education. This calls for investments in the quality and quantity of health and education services to create a healthy and educated workforce to drive progress.

Among other policy recommendations include a focus on job-led growth, promoting fair income and workers' rights, and boosting social protection measures.

## UNDP Africa Regional Programme Advisory Board Meeting takes place in Addis Ababa

UNDP Africa's Regional Programme Advisory Board Meeting took place 10 December, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to review the Programme's 2015 performance and results, discuss challenges and opportunities, and explore ways to increase partnerships. Participants in the one-day meeting

included representatives from the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), African Civil Society Platform (ACP), Sweden, France, the UN Capital Development Fund, as well as UNDP Resident Representatives, and HQ offices.

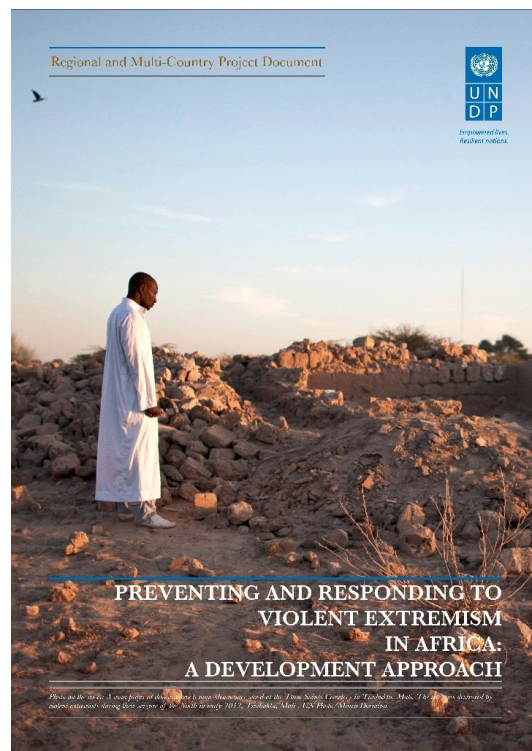
The Board recognized the importance of regional public goods in doing development in Africa and the role of the Regional Programme in this area, progress made in engaging development partners on substantive issues, and the need to identify opportunities to scale up country initiatives to the regional level.

For 2016, the Board confirmed a continued focus on emerging development issues on the continent, such as preventing and responding to violent extremism through a development lens, and migration/mobility, while also exploring additional opportunities to engage with the private sector and to mobilise resources with other agencies and from issue-based pooled funds. [The UNDP Regional Programme for Africa runs from 2014 to 2017.](#)

## UNDP launches initiative to prevent and respond to violent extremism in Africa

Attacks by violent extremism have reached unprecedented levels in Africa and are estimated to have caused over 21,245 fatalities from 2011 to 2015, and reduced economic activity in affected areas. In an effort to counter this trend, UNDP has launched a four-year USD 45.7 million regional programme to support African countries to prevent and respond to the growth of violent extremism through a development lens.

Various countries, including Somalia and Nigeria, where groups such as Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram operate, are covered by the [Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach](#) initiative, designed to address the immediate, underlying and root causes of extremism. The project contemplates a range of actions, from the integration of marginalized communities into the political process, to the reduction of access to weapons and the enactment of policies to assist target countries respond to extremism.



## Maendeleo Policy Forum: [Violent Extremism in Africa: Challenges, Options and Opportunities for Response](#)

On 11 November, the Regional Service Centre hosted a Maendeleo Policy Forum titled Violent Extremism in Africa: Challenges, Options and Opportunities for Response.

The forum was moderated by UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa Deputy Director Ms. Ruby Sandhu-Rojon and was attended by members of the diplomatic corps in Addis Ababa, research institutions, civil society and UN partners. Panelists included Nigeria's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa H.E. Ambassador Usman Baraya, Senior Advisor on Policy Analysis and Research at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University Professor Amr Abdalla, Secretary General of the Global Network of Religions for Children and Director of Arigatou International in Nairobi Dr. Mustafa Ali, senior researcher at the Institute of Security Studies Dr. Anneli Botha, and head of UNDP Africa's Regional Programme Mohamed Yahya.

The panelists discussed the growth of violent extremism and its manifestations in Africa, including its causes and drivers. In addition, they looked at the role of information and communications technology (ICT), particularly the multiplier effects of social media. They identified the lack of research on human behavior, for instance, why members of the same family would take different courses of action in the face of recruitment to violent extremism. Amongst other conclusions, it was agreed that research is vital to identify the role families, communities, and institutions play in stopping violent extremism for evidence-based interventions.

For more on the Maendeleo Policy Forum series, click [here](#).

## Country Office Spotlight: South Sudan *Survey reveals public's perceptions of peace and justice*

Over a six-month period, from October 2014 to April 2015, the South Sudan Law Society and UNDP South Sudan conducted research on how South Sudanese envisioned to address the country's legacy of war and violence. 1,525 people across six of the country's ten states and Abyei region were interviewed for the [Search for a New Beginning: Perceptions of Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Healing in South Sudan](#). UNDP South Sudan Country Director Balazs Horvath says more about the survey:

### 1. What are the main findings of the survey?

The survey revealed overwhelming popular backing for the trial and criminal accountability of offenders. Two thirds of respondents answered that offenders should "face trial". Truth-seeking efforts had widespread support and 81% of survey respondents called for compensations for survivors and 90% were in favor of measures to honor those missing or killed as a result of the conflict. 41% percent of respondents had symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder, a rate comparable to that of post-genocide Rwanda.

### 2. Why was the survey conducted now and why is this important?

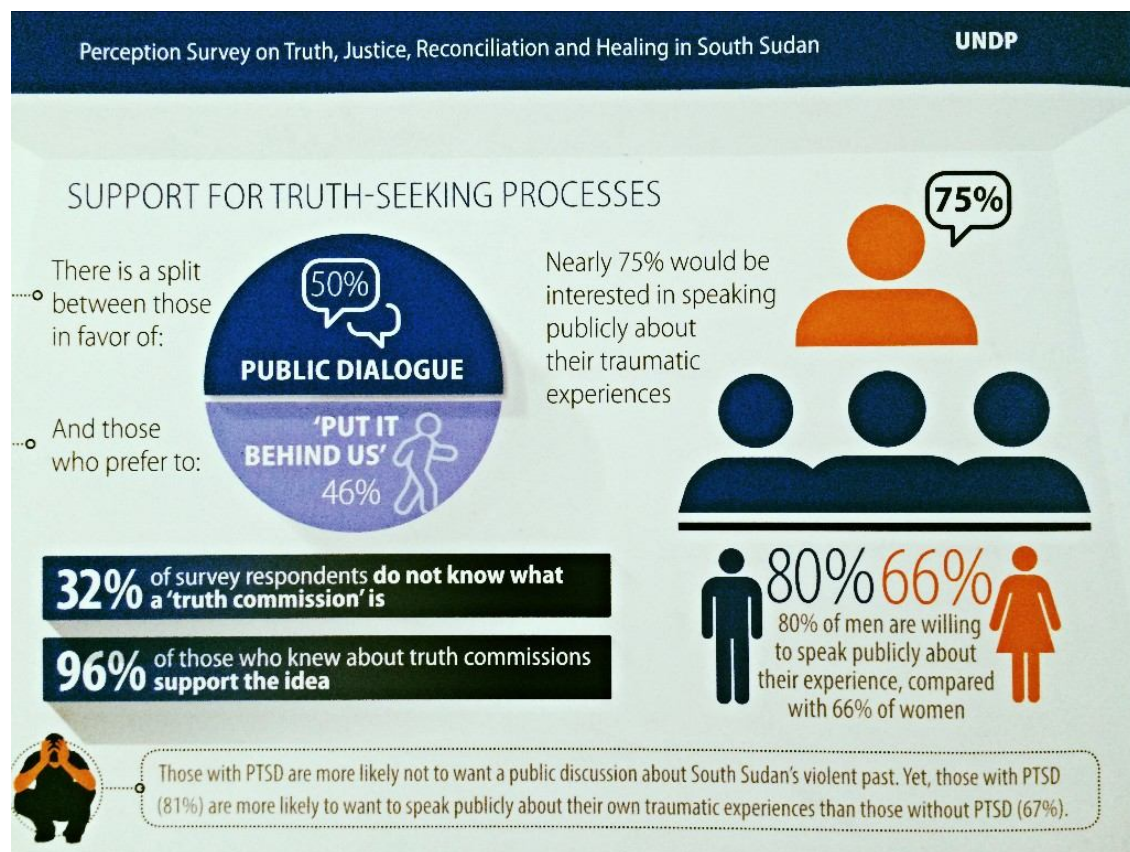
Violent conflict erupted in South Sudan in December 2013 and it was not until August 2015 that a peace agreement was signed by warring parties. Conducting the survey as the crisis unfolded aimed

to secure information capable of shaping forward-looking victim-centered responses once peace was restored. The findings were released in October 2015, following the signing of the Addis Ababa peace agreement, to stimulate national debate on the transitional justice processes foreseen by the treaty. Finally, the results of the survey serve as a very useful baseline for future surveys of a similar nature.

### 3. What are the main recommendations?

In view of the widespread demand for truth and justice, a justice and reconciliation programme should aim to document violations, pursue criminal prosecutions, facilitate reparations to survivors and honor the dead. It is important to note that this process should be centered on local ownership, and be led by the people of South Sudan.

For more on the survey, click [here](#).



## HIV treatment costs driven down and access to healthcare and rights by vulnerable populations improved

The prices of [UNDP-procured HIV medicines have been brought down](#) to the unprecedented annual cost of US\$ 100 per patient in Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Mali, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe

owing to joint efforts from UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, among other partners. The US\$ 25 million savings incurred will be used to put an additional 250,000 people on life-saving HIV treatment. This achievement is linked to progress over the past 15 years on the rise of generic medications, establishment of long-term agreements with manufacturers, discounts on large volumes of drugs, and reductions in handling and transport costs.

In addition, UNDP and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are working to address constraints that keep disenfranchised populations away from treatment. The [USD10.5 million grant will fund a regional initiative](#) to strengthen laws and policies related to healthcare accessibility and to counter the social stigma and discrimination faced by men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who use drugs and transgender people, and who systematically face human rights abuses and obstacles to receiving vital health care, such as HIV and tuberculosis (TB) prevention, treatment and care. The programme covers Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

UNDP together with the governments of Sweden and Norway launched in November a [joint 3-year initiative](#), focused on the reproductive health and rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People (LGBT) in 12 African countries and on the prevention of child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence. The USD 4.2 million "Strengthening Regional and National Legislative Environments for HIV/SRHR to support the Enjoyment of Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People and Women and Girls in Sub-Saharan Africa – Phase II", follows the successful completion of its first phase during 2013-2015.



## Voices from Addis Ababa, Dakar and Nairobi – Our blog series



### The SDGs need a new measure of GDP

“Setting a target to achieve 7 per cent GDP growth rate is a worthwhile objective, but this work will be in vain unless the way we measure growth is also revolutionized”, states Degol Hailu, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP. Check out his blog [here](#).

### What does the COP21 Paris Agreement mean for Africa?

“Under the leadership of the African Group of Negotiators, African countries successfully advocated for a balanced agreement that addresses both mitigation and adaptation in equal measure, in a departure from the Kyoto Protocol which focused significantly on mitigation,” says Aliou Dia, Team Leader of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Unit in Africa. Check out his blog [here](#).

For Aliou’s earlier blog on What’s at stake for Africa at COP21, click [here](#).

### Upcoming events

- 20-23 January 2016: [World Economic Forum, Davos-Klosters, Switzerland](#)
- 25 - 29 January 2016: [UNDP Executive Board: first regular session 2016, New York, USA](#)
- 24-31 January 2016: [26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)
- 24 February 2016: UNDP 50th anniversary Ministerial Meeting, New York, USA
- 22 April 2016: [UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon High-level Paris Agreement signing ceremony, New York, USA](#)
- 11-13 May 2016: [World Economic Forum on Africa, Kigali, Rwanda](#)
- 23-24 May, 2016: [World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, Turkey](#)
- 17-22 July, 2016: [21st International AIDS Conference, Durban, South Africa](#)

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