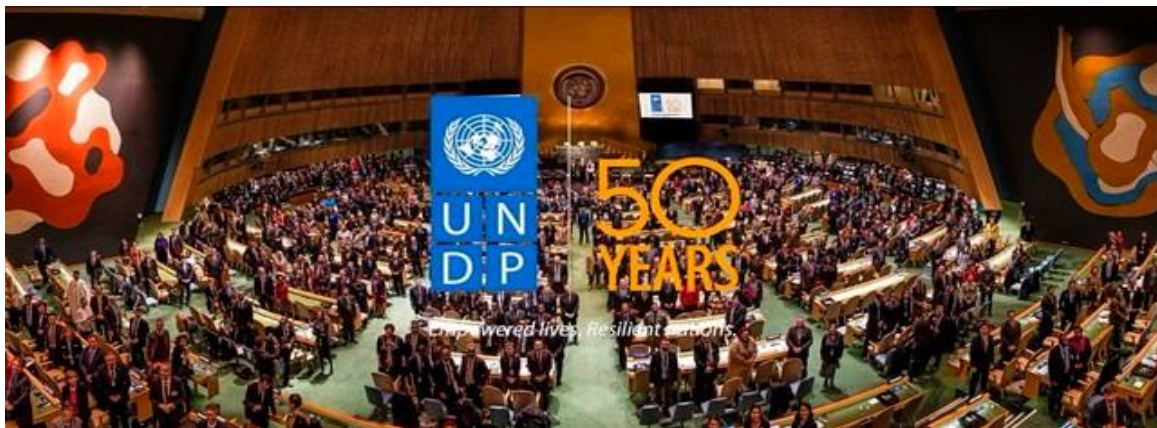




UNDP marks 50th anniversary with Ministerial meeting



Member States representatives in the UN General Assembly Hall, New York, USA for UNDP's 50th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting

"UNDP over 50 years has supported countries to navigate through the most difficult times: whether that involved war and conflict, hardships like Ebola, recovery from devastating natural disasters, or tackling violent crime and lawlessness," said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark (for her full speech, click [here](#)) at the conclusion of the [Ministerial Meeting](#) held on 24 February in New York for UNDP's 50th anniversary.

The event brought together more than 150 Member States – including more than 80 Presidents, Prime Ministers and Ministers to celebrate UNDP's first half-century and chart a course for the future of the organization. Among the themes covered in the discussions were eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, preventing violent conflict, managing risk, building resilience; and financing the SDGs. For more on UNDP at 50, visit [50.undp.org](#)

High-level Sahel meeting calls for development investments in border areas



Sahel G5 countries and partners discuss border management in the Sahel in Bamako, Mali

Representatives from the Sahel G5 countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger – observer nations including Nigeria and Senegal, and development partners convened in Bamako during 10-11 March for the *International Ministerial Conference on Border Management and Border Communities in the Sahel: A development perspective*, to discuss common issues, challenges and opportunities presented by their shared borders.

Discussions were informed by surveys of Sahelian populations on their perception of insecurity, radicalization and violent extremism, conducted in 8 countries with UNDP and Japan's support. The Conference adopted the [Bamako Declaration on cross-border management and development of border communities in the G5 Sahel Region](#) that calls for more coordinated and robust development-focused efforts in the border areas – beyond the predominant security approach - with a particular emphasis on youth.

Among the meeting's outcomes was a request for UNDP support to both the G5 Sahel Secretariat to translate the Declaration into a programme of action, as well as the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (*Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel - CILSS*) to prepare a Long Term Perspective Study for the Sahel, that goes beyond addressing emergencies. The Ministerial Conference was supported by UNDP and Japan through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) initiative.

Maendeleo Policy Forum: Paris Climate Change Agreement and Africa – What next?



Maendeleo Policy Forum panelists (left to right) Xolisa Ngwadla, Jessica Megill, Seyni Nafo, Emilie Bruckmann and Yonas Tekelemichael

Following the historic global climate pact agreed in Paris last December, the Regional Service Centre for Africa hosted a Maendeleo Policy Forum on 29 February titled: *Paris Climate Change Agreement and Africa – What next?*

Panelists included the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) Mr. Seyni Nafo and AGN Lead Coordinator Mr. Xolisa Ngwadla, United States' Regional Environment Officer for East Africa Ms. Jessica Megill, France's Second Counsellor for Ethiopia Ms. Emilie Bruckmann and Ethiopia's Advisor to the State Minister of Environment Mr. Yonas Tekelemichael. Civil society, members of the diplomatic corps in Ethiopia, UN partners and think tanks also participated.

The discussions focused on the details of the Paris Agreement, its implications for Africa and issues of implementation. Among the key takeaways were the need to: maintain the political momentum both in Africa and globally, including beyond the world leaders' Agreement signing ceremony scheduled for 22 April in New York; continue coordinated support to the AGN; create a pipeline of bankable projects to receive climate financing; engage further with private sector and civil society organisations; support the realization of countries' national plans and linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and review climate expenditure to enable tracking.

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

Partnering to curb Illicit Finance Flows in Africa



Technical experts, development partners and civil society in Dakar, Senegal for illicit financial flows consultation

Close to 50 experts from African and global revenue authorities, customs and foreign affairs departments participated in a technical consultation on the USA-Africa Partnership on Illicit Finance in Dakar, Senegal during 24-25 February, to discuss ways of strengthening national capacity to curb illicit financial flows (IFF) and promote intra-regional approaches.

The consultation was jointly organized by the governments of Senegal and the United States of America and UNDP, and provided a platform to improve technical skills to develop national action plans within the framework on combatting IFF and for modalities to monitor implementation. Participants included representatives from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, as well as civil society and other development partners.

This is the first UNDP-organised advocacy and sensitization meeting on IFF since the African Union's adoption last year of the report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, that was led by former South Africa President Thabo Mbeki. Moving forward, UNDP will work with one champion country in Africa on internal broad-based consultations leading to a practical and clear roadmap on addressing IFF that the government could adopt for implementation.

2nd Africa Human Development Report consultations underway

A regional consultation for the upcoming second human development report for Africa, *The Political Economy of Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality*, was held on 29 January in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the Africa Union Summit period.

The consultations brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss the report's themes, initial research findings and ways to sharpen the report further. Participants included representatives of the African Union Commission and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), as well as civil society organisations. Discussions focused on why gender matters for human development and actions needed to advance women's economic, social and political empowerment.

The first Africa Human Development Report, *Towards a Food Secure Future*, can be found [here](#). The 2nd Africa Human Development Report is scheduled to be launched later in 2016. Follow [#AfHDR2016](#) and [#AfricaGenderGap](#) on Twitter for more information.

UN Secretary-General embarks on “Mission for Humanity” ahead of first-ever World Humanitarian Summit



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s global [“Mission for Humanity”](#) kicked off in Africa this January to call attention to people affected by conflict and disasters, and to build momentum towards the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, set for 23-24 May in Istanbul, Turkey

In Ethiopia, the Secretary-General met with people affected by drought, witnessing first-hand efforts to cope with the effects of El Niño. In Burundi, his meetings focused on efforts to resolve the political crisis. He has also visited internally displaced people in camps in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and sites for the protection of civilians in South Sudan. Other countries on the itinerary were Algeria, Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

The Secretary-General has also visited the Middle East and Asia. At the Summit, the Secretary-General will call on world leaders to agree on a comprehensive action plan—backed by investment—to strengthen preparedness, response capacities and risk financing by 2020, particularly for the most risk-prone countries. For more on the Summit, visit www.worldhumanitariansummit.org.

Country Office Spotlight: Togo



UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and President Faure Gnassingbé of Togo in New York, USA

UNDP and Togo embarked on a three-year USD 258 million programme to improve access to basic social services and involve communities in the economic and social development of their local areas.

The Community Development Emergency Programme (PUDC) is based on the country’s Strategy for Boosting Growth and Promoting Employment (SCAPE), and will see continued rural electrification, at least 1,600 classrooms and 5,000 housing units built annually between now and 2020, and GPS mapping of all infrastructure. The programme will also provide financial support to mothers and guardians of children aged 0 to 24 months, as well as to mothers and guardians of children aged 24 to 59 months suffering

from severe and acute malnutrition. Community associations, women's and youth groups in the targeted rural areas will also be supported to create income-generating activities.

The Togo programme is part of UNDP's expanding support to countries aimed at translating domestic resources into development impact. Since 2015, UNDP in Senegal has been working with the government to deliver on a two-year USD 198 million programme to boost rural development by accelerating the construction of roads and water points, investing in agriculture and entrepreneurship, and facilitating people's access to energy services.

African Union consultations on Migration following Valletta Summit

Following the November 2015 African and European leaders' [summit on migration in Valletta, Malta](#), UNDP supported the African Union (AU) to convene the African consultations on migration, factoring in the outcomes of the meeting. The consultations took place 14-15 December in Nairobi, Kenya, and was an opportunity for the AU to brief all 54 Member States on the Valletta outcomes and begin to integrate these into existing AU plans.

UNDP is partnering with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in supporting the AU to implement its Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) for Africa, a comprehensive programme on labour migration governance formally adopted by African Heads of State and Government in January 2015.

Areas of complementarity between JLMP and Valletta priority actions include improving labour migration statistics and strengthening the capacity of national labour institutions on labour migration governance. Among other stated areas of focus for the AU Member States to address irregular migration are job creation, and the negotiations and development of a Free Movement Protocol and the Continental Free Trade Area.

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



When China sneezes, Africa should not catch a cold

"The (*economic*) slowdown in China means demand for African's commodities will decline. China is structurally changing its economy. The plan is to shift from an export-oriented and public investment-driven economy to a domestic demand-driven, modern manufacturing and service-oriented one. China is also cutting back on the excess capacity built around steel making and coal production" explains Degol Hailu. Learn more [here](#).



The Perils of Commodity Price Volatility

"Since 2011, the price of oil has fallen by 51%. Copper, coal and iron ore prices have dropped by 38%, 53% and 67%, respectively. Commodity dependent countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are facing serious fiscal and balance of payment deficits, hindering the progress towards the sustainable development agenda", write UNDP Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development Degol Hailu and UNDP Research Associate Chinpihoi Kipgen. Read their full blog post [here](#).



Timely rejuvenation of the African Peer Review Mechanism?

"The tenets of good governance, such as participation, transparency and accountability are not voluntary. So why should their monitoring be? It is time for the African Peer Review Mechanism to revisit its voluntary nature as a means to entrench these values continent-wide," writes David Omozuafah, Programme Advisor for the African Peer Review Mechanism and for Governance Assessment with UNDP Africa. Check out his blog [here](#).



What pushes young people to extremism?

"Exclusion, injustice, poor governance, and unemployment create fertile ground for violent extremism. It is not mere coincidence that the most deprived regions produce a disproportionate number of recruits," says Mohamed Yahya, Regional Programme Coordinator with UNDP Africa. Read his full blog post [here](#).

Upcoming events

21 April, 2016: [UN General Assembly High-Level Debate: Implementing Commitments on Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Financing](#)
 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](#)
 6-10 June, 2016: [UNDP Executive Board: Annual session](#), New York USA
 17-22 July, 2016: [14th session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD XIV\)](#), Nairobi, Kenya
 17-22 July, 2016: [21st International AIDS Conference, Durban, South Africa](#)
 July, 2016: African Union Summit, Kigali, Rwanda.
 27-28 August, 2016: [The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development \(TICAD VI\)](#), Nairobi, Kenya
 6-12 September, 2016: [UNDP Executive Board: Second regular session](#), New York, USA
 13 September, 2016: [71st Session of the UN General Assembly, New York, USA](#)
 19 September, 2016: High-level Summit on managing large-scale movements of migrants and refugees, New York, USA
 7-18 November, 2016: [Climate Change Conference \(COP22\), Marrakesh, Morocco](#)

For past issues of the newsletter, click [here](#).

Feedback

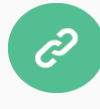
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