



Monthly service of UN DESA NGO Branch | **CSO Net** – [csonet.org](http://csonet.org)

## Welcome to the UN!

Below is a brief summary of news and upcoming intergovernmental meetings of interest to NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status. For upcoming events, make sure you have registered your organization's participation with the organizer.

## News

### [24 June: Global demand increasing for synthetic drugs, UN report finds](#)

While global markets for cocaine, heroin and cannabis declined or remained stable, the production and abuse of prescription opioid drugs and new synthetic drugs rose, the United Nations annual drug report said today. "The gains we have witnessed in the traditional drugs markets are being offset by a fashion for synthetic 'designer drugs' mimicking illegal substances," said Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which produced the World Drug Report 2011.

### [22 June: Social investments deserve priority in economic recovery schemes](#)

A new United Nations report finds that many governments did not pay enough attention to the social implications of the recent global financial crisis and urges that social investments be given priority in recovery programmes. The Report on the World Social Situation 2011: The Global Social Crisis, published today by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), explores the ongoing adverse social consequences of the 2008–2009 financial and economic crisis – the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

### [13 June: Getting it right as a new nation is born](#)

On 9 July, South Sudan becomes the world's youngest state following one of Africa's longest and deadliest civil wars. As such it faces many challenges – 90% of the population live below internationally defined income standards; 92% of women cannot read or write; one out of every seven children dies before their fifth birthday; and few children complete primary school. On 13 June, ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding

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#### ENGLISH

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<http://csonet.org/content/documents/110625f.htm>

#### TAMBIEN DISPONIBLE EN ESPANOL :

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/110625s.htm>

Commission convened an informal joint event "Promoting Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Sudan and South Sudan" to highlight the importance of development to peace; the need for effective international support to Sudan and South Sudan and the importance of regional cooperation.

### [16 June: Effective partnerships vital for tackling diseases, UN officials stress](#)

Top United Nations officials today stressed the need for governments, the private sector and civil society to work together and more effectively to address cancers, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases, which account for nearly two thirds of global deaths each year. "No one actor is able to harness the resources necessary or address the complex range of factors that are driving the progression of these diseases," Joseph Deiss, President of the General Assembly, said in his opening remarks.

### [16 June: Committee on NGOs adopts report](#)

Having finished its work on 24 May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations today concluded its 2011 resumed session, adopting by consensus its report, which contained seven draft decisions on matters that called for action by the Economic and Social Council. See link below for the advance unedited version of the report adopted on 16 June. The recommendations of the report are expected to be reviewed in the Council in Geneva at around 25 July.

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## More News

### [15 June: New Communications Procedure of CSW](#)

The Communications Procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women is a unique tool for individuals and organizations to use in order to raise awareness about injustice and discriminatory practices against women in any country in the world. Claims to the Commission on the Status of Women for consideration at its next session (27 February to 9 March 2012) must be submitted by 1 August 2011.

### [14 June: Think Big in Launching Final Push to Meet MDGs, Says GA President](#)

New York, 14 June – Citing many examples of real progress around the world that testified to the soundness of the “people-first” approach embodied in the Millennium Development Goals, senior United Nations officials today said that, with the 2015 deadline for achieving those ambitious targets rapidly approaching, stakeholders must not be afraid to “think big” in shaping the final push, even as they planned strategies to alleviate the suffering of millions “who will need our attention come 2016 and beyond”.

### [10 June: HIV/AIDS Summit adopts ambitious targets to defeat epidemic](#)

10 June 2011 –Countries meeting at a United Nations summit in New York today adopted ambitious new targets to defeat AIDS, with the aim of ridding the world of a disease that has claimed more than 30 million lives since it was first reported three decades ago. The High-level Meeting on AIDS brought together 3,000 participants, including 30 heads of State and government, along with senior officials, representatives of international organizations, civil society and people living with HIV, to chart a path for the future of the AIDS response.

### [2 June: Greening World's Economies Debated](#)

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro this morning made a strong call for creating a global green economy characterized by abundant jobs, sustainable livelihoods, dynamic economic growth and clean energy. Kicking off a day-long informal General Assembly thematic debate on “Green economy: a pathway to sustainable development”, Ms. Migiro said the green economy also must address the menaces caused by climate change, notably food and energy insecurity and deforestation. The debate aimed to guide next year’s United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, known as “Rio+20.”

## Upcoming Events

Below is a brief summary of upcoming intergovernmental meetings to which NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status can participate. All events have their own registration procedure; make sure you have registered your organization's participation.

### [2011 ECOSOC High Level Segment, Geneva, 4-7 July 2011](#)

The Annual Ministerial Review of the 2011 High Level Segment of the Council will focus on implementing the internationally-agreed goals and commitments in regard to Education. The Ministerial Review will assess the state of implementation of the United Nations Development Agenda with a focus on its education-related goals and objectives. It will also analyze key challenges affecting the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and commitments related to education and consider recommendations and proposals for action, including new initiatives and partnerships to accelerate the implementation of education-related objectives.

### [2011 ECOSOC Innovation Fair, Geneva, 4-7 July 2011](#)

At the occasion of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) at the High-level segment of the annual substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which will be devoted to “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in education”, the Fair will showcase innovative practices, approaches and projects in education from around the world. Some 40 displays from NGOs, private sector entities and UN agencies will be open to visit. See a list of participants and a Virtual library at [un.org/ecosoc](http://un.org/ecosoc)

### [Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty \(ATT PrepCom\), 11-15 July 2011](#)

The third session of the “ATT PrepCom” will take place in New York from 11 to 15 July 2011. This session will build on the work undertaken during the second session, which was held in March 2011. ALERT: Due to a network error, some NGO representatives may have retrieved, in error, a confirmation letter for the Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT PrepCom). The message has a date of 17 May 2011. Please note that only those NGO representatives whose registrations have been approved will be receiving a new confirmation letter with a “special confirmation code.” This new letter will be required for on-site registration.

## More Upcoming Events

### [General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth, 25–26 July 2011](#)

As part of the International Youth Year, the General Assembly will hold a high-level meeting on youth on 25 and 26 July 2011. The high-level meeting will have as its overarching theme "Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding". The high-level meeting will comprise two consecutive informal interactive roundtables on 25 July 2011 and two plenary meetings on 26 July 2011. The round tables will be chaired by Member States at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly.

### [Second Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, 1–5 August 2011](#)

The Second Session of the Open-ended Working Group on strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons will be convened from 1 to 5 August 2011 in Conference Room 2 at the United Nations North Lawn Building (NLB) in New York.

### [64th Annual DPI-NGO Conference: Sustainable Societies: Responsible Citizens, Bonn, Germany, 3–5 September 2011](#)

The 64th Annual DPI/NGO Conference aims to highlight effective ways in which citizens and civil society, in partnership with other stakeholders, can contribute to creating and maintaining sustainable societies – economical, cultural and environmental. The 2011 edition, held in Bonn, Germany, could be considered as a major civil society contribution to the Rio+20 Conference taking place next year, and will provide valuable network-building opportunities for all participants.

### [Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities, 7–9 September 2011](#)

The fourth Conference of States Parties will be held at UN Headquarters in New York from 7–9 September 2011. The theme and subthemes of this Conference will be announced later this month. The Convention recently welcomed its 100th ratification.

### [Opening of the 66th session of the General Assembly, 13 September 2011](#)

The 66th regular session of the General Assembly will open at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 13 September 2011, at 3 p.m. The General Debate will be held from 20 to 30 September 2011. The work of the Main Committees of the Assembly is expected to commence on Monday, 3 October. During the general debate there will be a number of high-level plenary meetings, listed below.

### [General Assembly High-level meeting on the prevention and control of Non-communicable Diseases, 19–20 Sept 2011](#)

The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/65/238, decided that a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases shall be held on 19 and 20 September 2011 in New York. The event shall address the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases worldwide, with a particular focus on developmental and other challenges and social and economic impacts, particularly for developing countries. The resolution also requests the President of the General Assembly to organize an informal interactive hearing, which was held on 16 June 2011, with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to provide an input to the preparatory process for the high-level meeting.

### [General Assembly High-Level meeting on Addressing Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, 20 September 2011](#)

In December 2010, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on "Implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/RES/65/160) and decided to convene a High-level Meeting on the theme Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication on 20 September 2011. Taking place in the context of the UN Decade for Deserts and the Fights against Desertification (2010–2020), the high-level meeting aims to raise awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought at the highest level. It also seeks to contribute to the preparation of the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 (Rio+20).

### [General Assembly High-level meeting on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 22 September 2011](#)

The General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, on 22 September 2011 in New York.

### [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development \(UNCSD\), Rio de Janeiro, 4–6 June 2012](#)

Organized to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, the Conference will include Heads of State and Government to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges is being organized in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236).

Visit the official site [www.uncsd2012.org](http://www.uncsd2012.org) for the latest updates, a calendar of events, information for major groups, registration information, and to subscribe to the biweekly newsletter “Rio+20: Making it Happen.”

Other newsletters of interest include “The Road to Rio” by UN-NGLS (subscribe at [un-ngls.org/rioplus20](http://un-ngls.org/rioplus20) ) and IISD Linkages, at [www.iisd.ca/linkages-update](http://www.iisd.ca/linkages-update) .

## Useful Links

DESA NGO Branch | CSO Net

<http://csonet.org>

NGO Liaison Office, United Nations Office at Geneva

<http://unog.ch/ngo>

UN-NGLS (United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service)

<http://www.un-ngls.org>

UN Department of Public Information, NGO Relations

<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection>

OHCHR Civil Society Section

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

OHCHR Civil Society Update Subscription

<http://conta.cc/can6Gf>

## At Your Service

How to Apply for Consultative Status

[csonet.org/index.php?menu=100](http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=100)

How to Submit a Quadrennial Report

<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=99>

Committee on NGOs Home Page

<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=80>

How to obtain a UN Grounds Pass

<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=86>

Ask a question on my organization's status

<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=82>

ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31

<http://bit.ly/eDu4cE>

Learn how to participate in the work of the United Nations

<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=113>

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