Amina Mohamed has been appointed as Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Government of Kenya following two years as Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP.

Ms. Mohamed is a seasoned diplomat with a vast career in the public sector having worked as the Permanent Secretary for Justice and Constitutional Affairs before assuming her position in UNEP in July 2011. During her term as UNEP Deputy Executive Director, Ambassador Mohamed spearheaded the implementation of UNEP’s Medium Term Strategy and Programmes as well as on-going reforms. Most recently she had been actively engaged with intergovernmental processes in implementing the RIO+20 outcomes and support efforts to enhance the funding base of the organization.

Ms. Mohamed is a mother of two and a law graduate from the University of Kiev in Ukraine and the Kenya School of Law. The United Nations family wishes Ms. Mohamed well in her new appointment as Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kenya Government.

Upcoming Events

- 09 August International Day of the World’s Indigenous People
- 12 August International Youth Day
- 19 August World Humanitarian Day
- 23 August International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (UNESCO)
The Report at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) officiated by the then Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Mr. Edward Sambili.

In his address, Mr. Sambili stated that Kenya had made progress in the achievement of some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as in education and adult literacy. In addition HIV prevalence among adults has decreased considerably, while child immunization is on target. However, as in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya still faces some challenges in the improvement of maternal health. Mr. Sambili commended the High Level Panel Report for providing a roadmap for sustainable development.

On her part, UNON Director General, Ms. Sahle-work Zewde commended the panel members for their hard work and insightful proposals, which will shape the post-2015 development agenda.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Marcel Rudasingwa emphasized how the report offers a powerful vision, building on lessons learnt and achievements made. The UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Steven Ursino recognized the participation of Betty Maina from Kenya as a Panel Member, adding that the formation and collaboration of the High Level panel resonated with the call for Delivering as One, and demonstrated successful results of working together for a common cause.

In addition to the launch, discussions by a global audience provided a chance to discuss the report with two key panel members via a video conference. This event was held simultaneously in London, Nairobi, Dhaka and Bogotá.

In Nairobi, Betty Maina, Chief Executive of the Kenyan Association of Manufacturers, and member of the HLP, presented the report and answered questions. In London, Amina Mohammed, the Secretary General’s Special Advisor on post-2015 and ex officio member of the HLP, offered her reflections on the report.

The High Level Panel was established by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in July 2012 to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is co-chaired by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron.

Popular Kenyan Musician Brings His Fans to the UN Headquarters in Africa!

At 7:00 a.m. on a Tuesday, this June 2013, a call came through. It was a young man’s voice at the other end. “I’m here at the main entrance of the UN Office, ready for the tour.” Really...but the tour does not start until 9:00 a.m. was the response from the UN. Besides the gates are only open to the public at 8:00 a.m. George Kariko was the young man who called the UN Visitors office. He was prepared to wait till the gates open.

Unbeknown to the UN Officer who took the call, George had woken up at 4:00 a.m. to get ready for this tour. And why was that? Because his idol, Redsan, a well-known Kenyan musician was scheduled to take a 9:00 a.m. tour at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and George was dying to meet
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

him. The musician's visit was certainly a rare and yet amazing opportunity not to be missed by his fans who came in droves.

At 8.00 a.m. the office phones began ringing off-the-hook. The callers, mostly university students, were announcing their arrival. Their excitement was contagious and the voices on the incoming calls betrayed the scene at the gate where the musician was checking in. For most, it was their first time at the UN Headquarters in Africa and they were ecstatic! This was not just any regular tour. Redsan, their star was walking the soil they stepped on and he was breathing the same air as they, the fans. The many visitors’ objectives were to catch a glimpse of him, maybe get a handshake and even better take a picture with him to show off on Facebook. It was a plan bound to work.

A couple of days prior, the Visitors’ Service announced on its Facebook page Redsan’s visit to the UNON complex and the posting received over 200 “likes.” Interested fans were asked to send their names to be part of the tour. Only the first 20 respondents were assured a seat. However, the demand was overwhelming. Over 150 people responded. One of the Facebook fans wrote on the eve of the tour, “Thank you for considering me. I am waiting in anticipation to be there tomorrow!”

On the day, the Visitors’ Service could only manage to take 50 youth from Nairobi who were briefed on the work of the Organization, the Young Professional Programme (YPP) and career development at the UN prior to embarking on a guided tour of the complex. They also had a chance to listen to Redsan talk about his music journey and his life after which he responded to their questions.

“It is not always that you walk in offices and find friendly people, but the UN has that friendly environment,” Pauline Kihara remarked. Another student stated that being briefed at the conference room made him get a sense of how it would feel to be a diplomat. “I promise to promote the UN and its activities everywhere I go,” he added with much enthusiasm.

In addition to touring the UN complex, Redsan also paid a courtesy call to the UNON Director-General, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde. They discussed how artists can work with the UN to promote peace and involve youth in the UN’s work. A popular Kenyan youth TV show “Teen Republic” interviewed the dynamic celebrity. They also recorded a show at the UN grounds to let the public know that UNON is open for tours.

Did the tour meet the visitors’ expectations? From the positive feedback received, they sure did! “This has been the most informative and exciting tour I have taken this year so far. I am looking forward to another visit!” exclaimed a student named Lydiah Ngono. A tour operator, Joseph Kwanya also indicated, “This was one of the most life-changing tours I have had; actually the best and I will surely promote it.”

The UN Visitors’ Service in Nairobi became operational in January 2012. Since then, close to 3500 people have visited the 140-acre complex at Gigiri. In addition to receiving briefings on the work of the UN, its funds and programmes, special emphasis is also made on UNEP and UN-Habitat, the only two programmes headquartered in Africa. Visitors are also given briefings on specific topics through the Service’s Speakers Bureau, upon request.

Through its tour programme, the Visitors’ Service hopes to change peoples’ perception of the UN. After all, it is the peoples’ Organization; it is their world!
First National Implementation Strategy Workshop on Open Educational Resources (OER) held in Nairobi, Kenya

Participants were drawn from Ministry of Education, Non-governmental organizations, and representatives from associations of school principals, school administrators, teacher associations and unions. The workshop aimed at contributing to Kenya’s objective of promoting the use of ICT at all levels of education and ensuring that teachers have the necessary ICT skills, as adopted in the National ICT Policy and other strategy documents.

Speaking during the workshop, Mr. Kiminza, Senior Deputy Director at the Ministry of Education stated that the workshop was great initiative since it coincided with the implementation of a large scale Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) integration programme in primary schools and that one of its key plan is the training of teachers to be able to deliver the education curriculum using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

Kenya is the first country to hold a National Implementation Strategy Workshop on Open Educational Resources (OER) guided by ICT CFT Toolkit developed by UNESCO, COL, Microsoft and other partner institutions. The workshop focused on ICT Competency Framework for Teachers and its potential to transform the Kenyan teaching force into a technology literate and innovative workforce in line with the country’s National Plan - Vision 2030.

This activity is part of UNESCO’s continued efforts of promoting the application of ICTs to enhance the quality of and access to education, including the stimulation of production, sharing and access to open educational resources (OERs). After the adoption of the Paris OER Declaration in 2012, the activity is being implemented with the financial support of the Hewlett Foundation, in Indonesia, Kenya and Oman.
Female police officers in Kenya, with support from UN Women, have formed an association that will bring together officers from the entire National Police Service to champion the rights, promote gender equality and professional growth of women in policing.

The Kenya Association of Women in Policing (KAWP), will among other objectives provide an atmosphere for the members to boost their careers through learning and development.

Speaking at a Nairobi hotel where about 120 policewomen drawn from all over the country gathered to validate the association's constitution on 20th June, the Inspector General of Police, David Kimaiyo lauded the officers for the initiative. “The coming together of female police officers to discuss issues that affect them in their work environment is an idea which is long overdue,” he said in a speech read on his behalf by Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Joel Kitili.

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Ms. Alice Naliaka urged the policewomen to deal decisively with crime in the country, especially gender-based violence.

UN Women Program Specialist Arjmand Banu Khan, whose organization is offering technical assistance for the establishment of the association, observed that while the creation of the association is a move in the right direction, a lot more still need to be done as the number of women officers is still very low. She vouched for the recruitment and retention of more female officers.

“When we supported the first group of police women from Kenya to travel to the annual conference of the International Association of Women Police in Kentucky, USA, in 2011 they came back and thought seriously about putting into practice lessons learnt. One of these was to form a homegrown Kenyan association,” said Ms Khan.

The association will now be registered with the Register of Societies before it is officially launched.
The International Organization for Migration and the African Population and Health Research Center partner to put migration health on the research agenda in Africa

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) on June 2013 signed a cooperation agreement to engage in high impact migration-related research in Africa.

The partnership aims at documenting and facilitating creative ways of addressing challenges facing migrants and mobile populations in Africa. It provides an opportunity for IOM, as a major player in migration governance, and APHRC, as a leading research institution in Africa, to work together in generating evidence that can support policy driven research which positively influences the lives of migrants and mobile populations.

The agreement allows for, among others: collaboration in conducting research that provides a better understanding of migration and health; the promotion of migration and health as a substantive research agenda with academic and other research institutions; joint publication in peer-reviewed journals; as well as capacity building initiatives for IOM and APHRC employees.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Executive Director of APHRC, Dr. Alex C. Ezeh, emphasized the importance of translating research into policies. “APHRC is keen on high-quality policy-relevant research that can change lives. I am happy for the opportunity this agreement provides in addressing the health concerns of migrants and mobile populations”, he said.

The IOM Migration Health Coordinator and Chief of Mission of IOM South Africa, Dr. Erick Ventura, underscored the important role that migration health plays in the realization of attaining global health goals. “Migrants and mobile populations face many obstacles in accessing healthcare services due to a number of factors; these include, irregular immigration status, language barriers, a lack of migrant inclusive health policies, and inaccessibility of services.”

IOM’s vision in migration and health is for migrants and mobile populations to benefit from an improved standard of physical, mental and social well-being, enabling them to substantially contribute towards the social and economic development of their home communities and host societies. Accordingly, IOM promotes evidence-informed policies and holistic integrated preventive and curative health programmes which are beneficial, accessible, and equal for vulnerable migrants and mobile populations.

APHRC is a leading pan-African research organization that generates and delivers policy-relevant scientific evidence for policy and action on population, urbanization, health and education issues across sub-Saharan Africa; while working to strengthen the capacity of African researchers and their institutions to undertake rigorous research across the continent.
Nairobi County and Habitat in a City Changer Campaign

Top national and county government officials, society, captains of industry, members of the diplomatic corps as well as people from all walks of life congregated at the Governor’s office as the ‘Safer Nairobi Initiative’ was re-launched on 25 June 2013. The “Safe Nairobi, Better Life: I’m A City Changer” is a joint project between the Nairobi City County and UN-Habitat.

The ‘I’m a City Changer’ campaign is a global movement to share and spread individual, corporate and public initiatives that improve the world’s cities.

Those who spoke at the media breakfast event promised to join hands in making the city- long considered a regional diplomatic and international travel hub- fight crime and help it attract even more investors and visitors.

Speaking at the occasion, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government Joseph ole Lenku promised that the national government would extend all the necessary support to the Nairobi City County to make the capital more secure.

“The government recognizes the central role security plays in the day to day running of a city and that is why we are committed to helping the Nairobi County with its security arrangements,” he said.

In his address, UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos narrated his experience as mayor of the city of Barcelona and the process they went through in turning round the fortunes of the city which had taken a nose dive.

“The city had many issues to contend with including safety, run-down buildings and unemployment. When we embarked on the process that later culminated in us hosting the Olympic Games, it was a well thought out vision,” he said.

According to the Executive Director, although the city of Nairobi is currently facing some challenges, these can be overcome if those in charge of running the show were focused on where they want to take the city.

Governor Dr. Evans Kidero said that Nairobi had a lot of complexities which were a sure recipe for security issues. “As a city changer I promise to see the prioritization of security in Nairobi and am sure this initiative will enhance partnerships with all the interested stakeholders,” he said.

On his part the Inspector General of Police David Kimaiyo said the police department will work hand in hand with the County Government in ensuring better security.

Addressing the event, former world marathon champion Douglas Wakiihuri said in the many cities of the world in which he had participated and won races those in charge had ensured adequate security. “It is my sincere hope that we can also do the same for Nairobi to the extent of hosting the 2028 Olympic Games,” he said. Wakiihuri who is the brains behind the famous Sotokoto Marathon is also partnering with UN-Habitat in the initiative.

As part of its I’m A City Changer Campaign, on June 30 the Nairobi County Council also opened the Aga Khan Walk sunken car park to public for skating, jogging and cycling. It is part of wider efforts to open up several public spaces in Nairobi and make them available for community use. Activities such as jogging help to secure urban areas by ensuring that there are always people in the city streets and enable citizens to have safe common areas to socialize, exercise and relax. The Sotokoto marathon is part of the campaign for the first time this year and will be held July 7 in Langata.
June 20th is the day designated by the UN to commemorate the strength and resilience of the more than 45 million around the world forced to flee their homes due to war and persecution.

It's the day that the whole world comes together to remind each other of people who would want to be at home but they cannot be because of insecurity mainly related to conflict. It's also an opportunity to remind the government of their obligation to protect and give support to refugees.

In Kenya, refugees and Kenyans gathered at the Nairobi University grounds to commemorate World Refugee Day. In both Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, refugees came out in large numbers to commemorate this day. The event themed “One family forced to flee is too many” was a meltdown of different cultural performances from the refugee communities and cultural artifacts.

Ms. Farhiza Shazz, a Somali refugee while acknowledging that being a refugee has helped her, said, “I am a refugee, but learned”.

UNHCR acting Representative, Mr. Abel Mbilinyi urged people to take a minute and reflect on refugee life. “In one minute, one person could help a refugee find a solution, take a minute to make a difference in a refugee life”, he said. Mr. Mbilinyi while appreciating Kenyans for hosting refugees also called on the Government of Kenya and international community to protect refugees.

The Acting Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Badu Katelo reiterated that the Government of Kenya was committed to protect the more than 600,000 refugees in Kenya. He underscored that Kenya was working with the Government of Somalia and UNHCR to return Somali refugees. Mr. Katelo added that repatriation would be voluntary, safe and dignified. “Being a refugee is temporary, therefore repatriation should be seen as a positive thing”, Katelo emphasized.

Kenya currently hosts 700,000 refugees majority of them in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and a number of them in Nairobi and other urban centers in Kenya.

Kenya Commemorates World Blood Donor Day

Kenya commemorated World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) on 14th June 2013, under the theme: “Give the gift of life. Donate blood”. The function held in Eldoret, Rift Valley Region focused on recognition of Kenya’s voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and advocacy for more blood donations. The Deputy Director of Medical Services, Dr John Masasabi, presided over the event on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Health, Mr James Macharia.

The Cabinet Secretary, Mr Macharia noted that Kenya has an annual shortfall of 204,000 units of blood, based on the WHO estimation criteria, that national requirements should be 1% of the population. He reported that the Ministry had plans to establish at least a blood transfusion outlet in each of the 47 Counties, to facilitate access for voluntary donors.

The Cabinet Secretary called upon the County Governments to support Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service (KNBTS) blood collection initiatives through advocacy, donor education and financial support. While lamenting that very few adults were regular blood donors, he urged Kenyans to treat blood donation as a national duty; and to mobilize fellow citizens. Being a regular blood donor, the Chief Guest led by example: he later donated blood at the venue.

WHO Country Representative, Dr Custodia Mandlhate noted that this WBDD was special, being the 10th CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
Anniversary. She noted that Resolution WHA58.13 on a proposal to establish World Blood Donor Day brings together Member States, the UN system, multilateral and bilateral agencies, and all other bodies concerned with blood safety, in promoting voluntary non-remunerated blood donation.

Recognizing that voluntary non-remunerated blood donors are the foundation of a safe, sustainable blood supply; Dr Mandlhate highlighted the goal for WHO: that all countries obtain all their blood supplies from 100% voluntary unpaid donors by 2020. She commended the Government of Kenya for having attained 100% non-remunerated blood donation through the NBTS; and for continuously expanding and strengthening the blood safety program in Kenya. Dr Mandlhate affirmed WHO commitment to supporting the national blood safety goals.

The highlight of the WBDD 2013 commemoration was the awarding of trophies and certificates to the highest blood donors in the North Rift. These comprise individuals who had recorded the highest instances of blood donation; as well as schools, colleges, universities and private institutions whose students or staff donate blood regularly.
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2. Vaccinates 58 per cent of the world’s children, saving 2.5 million lives a year
3. Assists over 36 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution
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5. Keeps peace with 120,000 peacekeepers in 16 operations on 4 continents
6. Fights poverty, helping 370 million rural poor achieve better lives in the last 30 years
7. Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations
8. Mobilizes US$12.4 billion in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies
9. Advances democracy, assisting some 30 countries a year with their elections
10. Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of 30 million women a year

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