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UN KENYA Newsletter

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Sustainable Development: A Future worth Choosing

Member States agree to renew and strengthen political commitment to sustainable development

The United Nations Communications Group in Kenya held a media briefing on 27 June 2012 to present the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development- the Rio+20 Summit. The briefing held at the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) complex, was addressed by



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The UNEP Deputy Executive Director, Ms Amina Mohammed together with the UN-Habitat Coordinator for Urban Planning, Mr. Raf Tuts at the press briefing at UNON © Josephat Kariuki, UNEP 2012

the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ms Amina Mohammed and the UN-Habitat Coordinator for Urban Planning, Mr Raf Tuts.

In her speech, Ms Mohammed touched on the resolutions adopted during the conference, which included the renewal and strengthening of political commitment towards sustainable development by the 193 UN Member States. The States agreed to launch a process to establish universal sustainable development goals to build on the advances under the Millennium Development Goals that will be an integral part of the post 2015

development framework.

In addition, the Summit emphasized on the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as central to sustainable development.

Through the Rio+20 outcome document adopted, a high level political forum on sustainable development will be established and UNEP will be strengthened. The membership of UNEP will increase from the present fifty-six countries to include all the 193 UN Member States.

The importance of partnerships was also emphasized noting how governments cannot work alone but rely on

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Upcoming Events

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| 18 July | Nelson Mandela International Day |
| 8 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 |

the active involvement and support of all major groups of civil society including the private sector. Partnerships are central to sustainable development.

The UNEP Deputy Executive Director noted that the outcome document recognized the right to food and the importance of food and nutrition security for all which can be achieved through sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Meanwhile, Mr Tuts highlighted some of the resolutions adopted by States which emphasized sustainable cities and human settlement as emerging

issues of development. “Indeed,” he said, “the UN-Habitat and the Government of Brazil have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide technical assistance to countries in Latin America to boost their capacity to design, implement, manage and evaluate programmes on sustainable urban development.”

He also said that the agency was engaged in creating sustainable cities through the launch of the “I’m a city changer” campaign. The campaign includes prioritizing sustainable transport systems globally especially within the

cities. Regarding urban settlement, he said there was a need to recognize the provision of water and sanitation as important human rights.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 20-22 June to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

Netherlands commits 7 million dollars to support governance reforms in Kenya



Mr. Chuma and Ambassador Reintjes exchange the signed agreement at the UNDP Offices in Nairobi. © UNDP, 2012

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has committed US\$ 7 million dollars to support democratic governance and the rule of law in Kenya.

“The Kingdom of the Netherlands supports free, fair and peaceful conduct of the 2013 elections as it is core to the sustenance of security and rule of law”, said Mr. Joost Reintjes, Ambassador

of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Kenya.

Speaking during a bilateral agreement signing ceremony at the UNDP offices in Nairobi, Ambassador Reintjes emphasized that his Government supports the practice of good governance in Kenya to reduce potential risks of contested elections. “It is a well-known fact that elections pose a delicate balance for

peace and security in Kenya, particularly if the outcome of the 2013 general elections is to be contested as were the last elections. Indeed for its complexity and new requirements, it would be important that the elections are conducted maturely and democratically. This is what makes our involvement a distinct imperative at this time,” added Ambassador Reintjes.

This funding will strengthen institutions responsible for the constitutional implementation and electoral process to enable Kenya successfully undertake a credible, free and fair election. The targeted bodies include IEBC, Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC), the Judges and Magistrates Vetting Board, and the Judiciary, specifically the Office of the Chief Justice.

“The contribution of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands comes at a crucial time in the history of Kenya following the promulgation of the Constitution in August 2010, especially as Kenya is preparing for its first elections under the new dispensation,” observed Mr. Aeneas Chuma, the UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator for Kenya.

“Kenyans have expressed the need to ensure that there is fidelity to the Constitution both in letter and in spirit, and that this will be jealously guarded. All the institutions that will receive support from this contribution have a critical role to play in ensuring that the aspirations of the Kenyan people are met,” Mr. Chuma noted.

He commended IEBC and CIC for demonstrating capability in undertaking their difficult mandates. Mr. Chuma

urged all stakeholders and the CIC to remain vigilant to ensure that the constitutional implementation process is on course.

The work of the Judges and Magistrates Vetting Board is important because an independent Judiciary will be able to facilitate an efficient, effective and transparent administration of Justice.

“It is equally vital for Kenya to have confidence in the judicial system as it prepares for the first election under

the new Constitution because it will be vital in resolving electoral disputes,” Mr. Chuma explained.

The ceremony was attended by the IEBC Vice Chair, Ms. Lilian Mahiri-Zaja, Mr. Sharad Rao, Chairman, Judges and Magistrates Vetting Board and Mr. Kakai Kissinger, Deputy Chief Registrar, Judiciary.

City Changers portray Nairobi in a new light in UN-Habitat photo event



The Nairobi skyline © Mutua Mutheka, 2012

Art lovers and critics, members of the public and a presidential aspirant all converged at a Nairobi lounge in early June to witness the official opening of a unique exhibition.

The aim of the exhibition by talented Kenyan photographer Mutua Matheka was to portray the Kenyan capital in a positive light. He has taken artistic images of the major buildings forming the Nairobi skyline and he says he wants to inspire fellow Kenyans to appreciate the beauty of their city instead of always focusing on the negative.

In an interview on the sidelines of

the event, Matheka noted that for a long time the pictures he had seen of Nairobi especially in the international press were depressing. “All you see are pictures of malnourished children, slums and such negative images,” he said.

Matheka has hooked into UN-Habitat’s **‘I’m a city changer’** campaign to show a brighter side of his home town and says he would like to showcase positive pictures of even more cities across the African continent and beyond.

Speaking at the function, Member of Parliament and an aspirant for Kenya’s presidency in the forthcoming general

elections Ms. Martha Karua challenged her fellow politicians to prioritise urban issues.

She hailed Matheka’s work and appealed to more young people to follow in the photographer’s footsteps.

Meanwhile, the exhibition inspired Tweeters from Nairobi and all over the world to post pictures of their favourite parts of the city and to start thinking about how they can be a positive force for change in their city. For more information about what people are doing every day, visit www.imacitychanger.org

Award-winning youth drama *Shuga: Love, Sex, Money* to reach new audiences in radio format



Exceptionally talented young Kenyan “Rising Stars” selected to contribute to all aspects of the *Shuga Love, Sex, Money* production © mtvshuga.com, 2012

Shuga: *Love, Sex, Money*, the award-winning television drama developed with UNICEF’s support, has been produced in radio format and now airing on two stations in Kenya. Listeners can now catch the drama on *Homeboyz Radio* and *Koch FM*. The youth drama will also air in five other African countries namely Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, South Africa and Tanzania.

The television show, developed by UNICEF, MTV Staying Alive Foundation and the PEPFAR Partnership for an HIV Free Generation, in collaboration with young people, representatives from government and partners from across participating countries, has been produced as a radio drama to reach the massive estimated listening audience of 45 million in the region.

In 12 eight-minute episodes, **Shuga Radio** provides a raw and uncut view of the lives of a group of four young fictional characters aged 15-24. The series tell a story about the young people’s choices, dreams, friendships, challenges and triumphs in a world where HIV and AIDS are an ever-present threat.

In Kenya, it airs on *Koch FM (101.5 FM)* at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and on *Homeboyz (103.5 FM)* at 9.15 pm on Wednesday, with repeats on Saturday at 8.50 am and Monday at 11.50 pm.

Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world, and young people are particularly vulnerable, as the majority of them living with HIV do not know their status.

Every day there are more than 2,500 new HIV infections in young people across the world, four out of 10 are in sub-Saharan Africa and the vast majority of these are young women and adolescent girls.

UNICEF Kenya Representative Marcel Rudasingwa said **Shuga** was an effective way to reach a key audience because it is a partnership and youth driven programme that focuses on impact and behaviour change.

“**Shuga** resonates with young people because they can see themselves in some of the characters. It is very real,” he said, adding that the new radio format would ensure more reach for millions of youth who lack access to television.

The 12 episodes are followed by two 25-minute pre-recorded magazine

shows which further explore the topics covered with young people, experts from the different countries as well as global and national cooperating partners.

Available in English, French and Swahili, **Shuga Radio** will air three times per week for 12 weeks.

The **Shuga Radio** storyline examines a similar range of themes to those in the TV drama including; HIV counselling and testing, condom use in stable relationships, positive prevention, gender inequality and sexual violence, transactional sex, alcohol abuse and the role of multiple concurrent partnerships in driving the HIV epidemic.

The content and storyline for **Shuga Radio** were written and created with 30 young people from Cameroon, DR Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Lesotho and South Africa in a special workshop hosted by Question Media Group with support from MTV and UNICEF.

Among the characters whose moving stories will be told in **Shuga Radio** are Sofia, 19, her sweetheart Fally, 20, Sofia’s cousin Amina, 17, smooth-talking risk-taker Karis, 20, and a successful business woman and ‘sugar mommy’ Riziki.

“We are delighted to expand the scope and impact of the **Shuga TV** series by moving the concept into the radio medium where it will reach millions of listeners on youth, student and community stations who may not have had access to the TV series,” said Georgia Arnold, Executive Director of MTV Staying Alive Foundation.

So far, 65 broadcasters have committed to airing the series.

At the International AIDS Conference in Washington D.C., MTV, UNICEF and PEPFAR will be hosting a special event, including a preview of **Shuga** attended by some of the actors on Tuesday, 24 July, 2012, between 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

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For more information on **Shuga Radio**, to follow the weekly episodes or to listen to or view past episodes

of the radio and TV series, visit www.shuga.tv or UNICEF Voices of Youth (www.voicesofyouth.org/sections/shuga-radio). To

share your thoughts on **Shuga Radio**, add [#shugaradio](https://twitter.com/shugaradio) to your Tweets.

OCHA EA promoting protection from sexual exploitation and abuse within humanitarian action in northern Kenya

As the Co-Chairs of the In-Country Network on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ICN PSEA), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) have been focusing on preventing abuse through training and raising awareness. Protection of sexual exploitation and abuse are addressed using four strategies namely engagement with the local population, prevention, response and management, and coordination. UNOCHA emphasized on implementation of the prevention strategy that aims to establish partnerships and build capacity on how to identify and handle sexual exploitation cases prior to them occurring. The training courses include the implementation of new codes of conduct, and partnerships between the Government, civil society and NGOs to develop accountability structures for recipients of aid.

The UNHCR confirmed that following the influx of refugees in Dadaab there was need for increased humanitarian action hence the Kenya Red Cross Society necessitated refugee operations in October 2011 in Ifo 2 East and West.

Through the leadership and support of UNOCHA East Africa, the ICN PSEA conducted an awareness raising training at the request of the KRCS for its 130 new staff working in Ifo 2. The training was aimed at improving the understanding of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by humanitarian personnel,



*Some of the participants of the awareness raising training for humanitarian workers
© UN-OCHA, 2012*

reducing its widespread occurrence and its consequences, and further introducing the legal framework guidelines relating to SEA, put in place for UN Organizations and cooperating partners. The guidelines reinforce preventive, responsive and coordination structures.

Considering the nature of the response in Dadaab camps which targets most vulnerable populations from Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia, the training built the capacity of all staff to protect human rights, create a safe environment for dealing with the affected communities, prevent and respond to cases of SEA in order to improve accountability and quality management of projects currently in place.

The staff members were informed that SEA is a form of gender-based violence

and as such complaints and reporting systems must be followed in implementing the guidelines.

Dr. Nailah Kassim who participated in the training noted: “As a Health Coordinator I loved the approach used as it was simple for everyone to understand despite one’s educational background. The training enabled us to strategize when it comes to referring patients for further medical attention so as to ensure they are protected against double abuse, especially for those who are victims of SEA”.

Another participant, Hemed Madaya said, “as one of the drivers in the refugee operations, I learnt how to conduct myself while at work and relate well with the refugees. I also understood the different power relations that we have

as humanitarian workers vis-a-vis the vulnerable refugees”.

There are more than 45 agencies in Dadaab and most of them worked

together during the emergency experienced in 2011 in the area. It is imperative to make a call for action for other humanitarian agencies in

Dadaab to engage the ICN PSEA in the implementation of prevention and response structures.

Government committed to prevent drug abuse and illicit trafficking



UNODC ROEA Representative handing over the World Drug Report to Assistant Minister Simeon Lesirma. Looking on from left are the UNIDO Representative, and the Chairman of NACADAA © Stephane Ibanez de Benito/UNODC, 2012

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was marked in Nairobi Kenya on 27 June 2012, organized jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Eastern Africa (UNODC ROEA) and the Government of Kenya, through the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Authority (NACADAA) and the Ministry of Internal Security and Provincial Administration.

The Guest of Honour was Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Internal Security and Provincial Administration, Simeon Lesirma who reiterated the Government's commitment to prevent drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Assistant Minister noted how the Government, through NACADAA, was working in partnership with the

international community as a whole, and UNODC in particular, to address drug abuse and illicit trafficking comprehensively in the country.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Loide Lungameni, the UNODC ROEA Representative welcomed guests and explained how the Day is marked across the world annually by governments, civil society organizations and local communities, recognizing the major impact that drug abuse and illicit trafficking have on health and safety.

Dr. Frank Njenga, the Chairman of the National Board for NACADAA, highlighted the importance of marking the Day to recognize the efforts that the Government of Kenya is putting to address issues of drug dependence and treatment of victims in the country. Dr Njenga emphasised on the partnership

between NACADAA and UNODC and its impact. “We at NACADAA realized that it may be more cost-effective to implement preventive education and addiction treatment initiatives hand-in-hand with measures to eliminate or curtail access to drugs. The UNODC Nairobi office has been supporting workshops that we organize for law enforcement officers drawn from various parts of the country.”

Dr. Njenga paid tribute to the significant contribution of Hon. Amina Abdalla, a Member of Parliament in Kenya, to fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Hon. Abdalla was presented the 2012 NACADAA Champion Award in recognition of her effort towards the enactment of the NACADAA Bill. “More than anybody else, she has singularly and with clarity of mind, with resistance from many powerful people, pushed through the law that allows NACADAA to exist....” Dr. Njenga acknowledged.

Turning to the World Drug Report which was also launched at the same occasion, Ms Lungameni noted: “the World Drug Report is an annual flagship publication by UNODC to highlight the major trends in the cultivation, production, trafficking and consumption of the major illicit drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) and also chemical precursors as they apply”

Mr Bjoern Clarberg and Dr Rey Chad Abdool presented the highlights of the Report through two sessions, one dedicated to law enforcement and the other on health consequences of drug abuse.

Later, the UNODC Representative officially handed over the World Drug Report 2012 to the Assistant Minister,

the UNIDO Representative who attended on behalf of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator,

Mr Aeneas Chuma, and the Chairman of NACADAA.

IOM opens ksh. 4 million Peace Centre in Kakuma refugee camp

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 27 June 2012 opened a Peace, Cultural and Recreational Centre for the Turkana community, in a bid to foster peace and reconciliation among the refugees in Kakuma and the communities that host them.

The Centre which will act as a community owned tool and a symbolic space representing unity in diversity to promote a culture of peace and active non-violence was opened by the Director in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Ms. Gladys Gacheru and IOM Regional Representative, Mr. Ashraf El Nour. Representatives from the United Nations and International Agencies graced the occasion to witness the opening of the Centre.

With support from the local Turkana community and funding from the Government of Japan, the Centre will provide a platform for nurturing positive cultural diversity and peace among the communities living in Kakuma. It will also provide space for holding peace and reconciliation meetings; act as: an archive and resource Centre; an education centre for skills development; a launching pad for development agendas; a cultural Centre; a counselling and rehabilitation Centre; and a Centre for settling disputes.

“The Centre aims to help promote cultural integration, empowerment and peace education, improve communication and dialogue, alleviate tensions and foster reconciliation hence form a common understanding on challenges faced today and in future by the communities,” said Mr. El Nour.



IOM's Regional Representative Mr. Ashraf El Nour (left) and the Director of Culture and National Heritage, Mrs. Gladys Gacheru unveil a plaque during the official opening of the Peace Culture and Recreation Centre in Kakuma.

© IOM, 2012

“The Government of Kenya is very grateful to IOM for this noble initiative. Our culture is our bedrock and although it's very dynamic, it is what defines us. This Peace and Cultural Centre provides us a harmonious platform for spearheading our initiatives,” observed Ms. Gacheru.

Kakuma continues to experience direct and indirect conflicts between refugees and the host community due to differences in country of origin, religious/faith orientation and clan. The region is also a hot spot for cross-border resource conflicts associated with cattle rustling and trade.

The opening of the Centre comes at a time when IOM is spearheading conflict prevention activities in Northern Kenya. The activities lined up include

sensitizing local leaders on appropriate conflict management mechanisms among mobile groups and helping to establish practical early warning and rapid response systems.

Separately, in a bid to sustain livelihood efforts for local fishermen in Lodwar, IOM opened a fish market with twenty stalls. To increase their capacity, IOM further donated fishing boats and nets, three large fish coolers and constructed a fish rack for the fishermen to dry their catch under the sun. The fishermen were facing myriads of problems such as lack of fishing gears compounded with lack of modern fish preservation techniques.

ICAO aims to improve preparedness planning and responses to public health emergencies that affect the aviation sector



Participants at the CAPSCA meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. © ICAO, 2012

The Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) programme is a global initiative of the International

Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to improve preparedness planning and responses to public health emergencies that affect the aviation sector. Such emergencies include influenza pandemics

or nuclear power-plant accidents.

There are currently five CAPSCA regional projects in operation worldwide. CAPSCA provides multi-sector seminars and workshops on preparedness planning, and arranges assistance visits to international airports. During the visits, preparedness plans that have been developed locally and/or nationally are reviewed, and improvements suggested.

The CAPSCA Africa Regional Project which started in earnest in 2009 now has twenty two Member States. In its meeting held in Nairobi from 26 to 28 June 2012, approximately one hundred and ten participants from seventeen States including Kenya, and five international organizations together with ICAO, attended.

The next Global CAPSCA event will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 8 to 12 October 2012.

UNON tour inspires Kenya Mission

The key focus of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) Visitors' Service under UNIC-Nairobi, in providing tours to the public, is to give visitors a sense of what the UN does and how much UNON means to the people of Kenya.

Entering the UNON complex the Kenya Mission to UNON staff members arrived with open minds, their objective as their leader – Mr. John Ekitela – described, was to “expose himself and his staff to the inner workings of the Organisation that they had been selected to represent in the global community.”

Following a comprehensive briefing from UNIC Director Nasser Ega-Musa and Chief of the Visitors Service Marian

Aggrey, which was described by Cleophas Wanyama as “informative and wonderful,” the delegation was given a tour of various key buildings and sites within the Gigiri compound. While the briefing placed emphasis on providing the delegation with historical and structural overview of the UN and its organs, the rest of the tour was used to highlight the various features in the complex.

The tour included a visit to the site with 15 trees planted by the Security Council members after their 2004 meeting on Sudan, and another one planted by the late Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Wangari Maathai. In addition, the delegation toured the “Green Building” also known as NOF

(New Office Facility), various artworks presented by Member States and the 1998 Kenya Bomb Blast Memorial Garden.

The “Green Building” which houses the headquarters of both the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), represents one of low cost ways of combating climate change while reducing electricity bills and dependence on fossil fuels.

The tour led members of the group, such as Mrs. Grace Ndegwa, to realise the historical and sustainable significance that a number of sites around the complex present.

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In addition to semantics, commendations were given by two Security Officers from the Mission – Stanley Kimera and Idah Irodi – who saw UNON's security staff and procedures as being “substantial and thorough,” providing nothing less than adequate protection for the Gigiri compound, its employees and visitors.

With well wishes and many congratulations the Kenyan Mission staffers left the UNON compound with a fresh take on their duties and direction.

In the General Assembly's resolution 60/248, the Secretary-General was requested to organize a guided tour operation at UNON and to bring the operation to the same level as those in other UN offices in Geneva, New York and Vienna. Tours are held from Mondays to Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to



Kenya Mission Staffers touring UNON © UNIC, 2012

3:00 p.m. and on Fridays, from 9:30 please e-mail: un.tours@unon.org or to 12:00 noon. For group reservations, call: +254 20 762 2034

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This Newsletter is compiled by the UN Communications Group in Kenya (UNCG) and edited by the United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi.

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