



MEDIA ADVISORY

4 JULY

ECOSOC Opens Annual Session in Geneva with Focus on Education

WHAT **United Nations High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

Despite recent progress towards the Millennium Development Goal 2 (MDG 2), “Achieving universal primary education”, significant strides forward are still needed. Education for All is the single most important investment one can make in a child’s life and access to quality education is not a privilege, it is a must.

Events during the High-level segment will include plenary sessions, interactive panel discussions, press conferences and side events.

Member States are expected to adopt a Ministerial Declaration that will reaffirm current commitments and commit to actions which will shape the future of the Education for All agenda.

WHEN **4 – 8 July 2011**

WHERE **Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland**

WHO The President of ECOSOC **Lazarous Kapambwe**, The President of the General Assembly **Joseph Deiss**, The President of the Swiss Confederation **Micheline Calmy-Rey**, Former Prime Minister of United Kingdom **Gordon Brown**, UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, UN Deputy Secretary-General **Aha-Rose Migiro** and approximately **500 Ministers, senior officials, representatives of international organizations, and civil society.**

A complete list of events and more details can be found at:
www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/index11.shtml

Webcasting - All plenary meetings and panel discussions, will be webcast at: www.un.org/webcast and www.un.org/en/ecosoc/facebook

Photographs will be available at: www.flickr.com/photos/unisgeneva and www.unmultimedia.org/photo/gallery.jsp?query=category:ECOSOC

Social media - UNESCO will tweet from the @unescoNOW twitter account, with the hashtag #MDG2. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs will also post information on the ECOSOC Facebook page at: www.un.org/en/ecosoc/facebook

Media accreditation

Media without UN credentials should request accreditation from the Press and External Relations Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva:

[www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpPages\)/70991F6887C73B2280256EE700379C58?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpPages)/70991F6887C73B2280256EE700379C58?OpenDocument)

Media contacts

In Geneva

UN Information Service | +41 22 9172302 or +41 22 9172325 | fbernard@unog.ch or abeauclair@unog.ch
UN DESA | Paul Simon | +1 917 367 5027 (Work) or +1 347 267 5618 | simonp@un.org

In New York

UN DPI | Vikram Sura | +1 212 963 8274 | sura@un.org

SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS

Plenary Sessions

4 July

9.15 am – 11.30 am, Palais des Nations, Room XX: Human Rights Council Chamber

Opening of the High-level segment

- The session will open with a formal plenary meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), where statements will be made by the President of ECOSOC **Lazarous Kapambwe**, President of the General Assembly **Joseph Deiss**, and United Nations Deputy Secretary-General **Asha-Rose Migiro**.
- Keynote addresses will be delivered by: **Gordon Brown**, Former Prime Minister of United Kingdom; **Simon Willis**, Global Vice President, CISCO; **Irina Bokova**, Director General, UNESCO; and **Juliana Rotich**, Executive Director and Founder, Ushahidi.
- Delegations will make statements during the High-level segment. For more information: www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/11_hls_programme_2011.pdf

12.00 – 1.00 pm, Palais des Nations, Room XX: Human Rights Council Chamber

A special policy dialogue, “Accelerating education for all (EFA): Mobilizing resources and partnerships” will focus on how the developing countries can mobilize the necessary domestic resources to meet the MDGs and Education For All goals by 2015. This event will also look at the importance of reinforcing the partnership process, and mainstreaming the importance of education in the values of corporate responsibility. **Moderator:** Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO

See more information at: www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/accelerating_progress_on_education_for_all-concept_note.pdf

2.45 – 3.00 pm, Palais des Nations, Room XX: Human Rights Council Chamber

Keynote address by Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation

5 July 2011

10.00 – 11.45 am, Palais des Nations, Room XIX

The High-level policy dialogue (5 July at 10 a.m.) with the Executive Heads of the international financial and trade institutions (Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) will discuss the state of the world economy and its implications for the achievement of the United Nations development agenda. **Moderator:** Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

See more information at: www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/world_economic_situation_and_prospects.pdf

12.00 – 1.00 pm, Palais des Nations, Room XIX

The special policy dialogue, “Education for sustainable development” will focus on the effectiveness of education systems, at all levels, in shaping the sustainable development thinkers, innovators and practitioners of the future. It will also look at the importance of social learning to sustainable practices. **Moderator:** Ashok Khosla, Founder and President of Development Alternatives

See more information at: www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/education_for_sustainable_development-concept_note.pdf

7 July 2011

10.00 am – 1.00 pm, Palais des Nations, Room XIX

The special policy dialogue, “Education challenges in Africa and Least developed

Countries (LDCs)” will bring together high level representatives of Governments and experts to discuss the most up-to-date thinking and policy measures that can be applied to advance the achievement of quality education for all in Africa and LDCs. The panel will also highlight good practices and lessons learned that can be replicated to other countries, based on national experience. **Moderator:** Cheick Sidi Diarra, UN Special Adviser on Africa

See more information at:

www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/concept_note_special_policy_dialogue_africa_and_ldcs.pdf

3.00 – 3.15 pm, Palais des Nations, Room XIX

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, will deliver a keynote address at ECOSOC on the launch of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2011, which contains new data on major successes and existing challenges in achieving the MDGs by 2015, the target year.

Thematic Panel Discussions

4 July 2011

3.00 – 4.30 pm, Palais des Nations, Room XX: Human Rights Council Chamber

The Face to Face debate on “Education, human rights and conflicts” will attract experts who will highlight the challenges surrounding access to education, particularly in high-risk environments. It will also introduce new ideas about how to improve the educational system and achieve human rights and educational access, as a contribution to the Millennium Development Goal 2. **Moderator:** Imogen Foulkes, BBC Correspondent, Geneva

See more information at: www.un.org/en/ecosoc/tvdebate/

6 July 2011

11.00 am – 1.00 pm, Palais des Nations, Room XIX

The panel discussion, “Promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable growth for accelerating poverty eradication and achievement of the MDGs” will identify the challenges in achieving a desired economic growth and to formulate key policies that can be implemented to overcome these challenges. Examples of country experiences and of successful policies that promoted growth while reducing inequality and strengthening social stability will be presented. **Moderator:** Juan Somavia, Director-General, ILO

See more information at:

www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/concept_note_panel_on_inclusive_growth_13may2011.pdf

8 July 2011

10.00 am – 12.30 pm, Palais des Nations, Room XIX

The thematic panel discussion, “Education for the future – changing needs” will stimulate substantive dialogue among key stakeholders, i.e. governments, civil society and private sector actors on the present challenges and opportunities in the area of education and sustainable development. It will also stress how tomorrow students requires the knowledge and skills to promote greener economic growth, while at the same time addressing social inequalities. **Moderator:** Kevin Watkins, Director of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report (2011), UNESCO

See more information at:

www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/concept_note_education_for_the_future_changing_needs_12_may.pdf

Special Events

4 July

8.25 – 9.05 am, Place des Nations

Senior United Nations and UNESCO officials will join ranks with school children in Geneva on 4 July to send a message to world leaders, urging them to make every possible effort to achieve Education for All by the target date of 2015.

Moderator: Ms. Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director, United Nations Information Service in Geneva

11.00 am, Building E, Third floor

Opening of the ECOSOC Innovation Fair (www.un.org/en/ecosoc/innovfair2011/index.shtml)

The Fair is organized in parallel to the High-level Segment. It will bring together more than 30 exhibitors, who will showcase innovative experiences in support of the Education for All agenda. See list of participants at:

www.un.org/en/ecosoc/innovfair2011/participants.shtml and list of projects at:

www.un.org/en/ecosoc/innovfair2011/vlibrary.shtml

Press Briefings/Press Conference

4 July

12.30 pm, Palais des Nations, Press Conference room III

Press conference by the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Joseph Deiss

5 July

12.30 pm, Palais des Nations, Press Conference room III

Press conference on the launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2011

The World Economic and Social Survey on “The Great Green Technological Transformation,” is calling for major investments in new technologies to build green economies. This report will be presented to the UN press corp. in Geneva by Mr. Sha Zukang, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

6 July

9.45 am, Palais des Nations, Press Conference room III

Press conference on "Promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for accelerating poverty eradication and achievement of the MDGs"

During the press conference, President of ECOSOC (Moderator), Juan Somavia of ILO, Noelen Heyzer of UNESCAP, and Frances Stewart of Oxford University will be able to address media representatives on the issues related to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and their interlinkages with, and impact on, poverty eradication and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

3:30 pm, Palais des Nations

Background press briefing on the content of the MDG Report by main author Francesca Perucci of the UN Statistics Division (video-link with New York). The Report will be launched by the UN Secretary General on 7 July.

8 July

10.30 am, Palais des Nations, Press Conference room III

Press briefing on the adoption of the ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration 2011

The President of ECOSOC will brief the UN press corp. in Geneva on the content of the Ministerial Declaration.

Side Events

The following is the list of side events that may be of interest to media accredited to the United Nations (http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/hls_side_events_2011.pdf).