



UN-ESCWA Weekly News

Issue 29/52

01 September

UN Deputy Secretary-General to Visit Lebanon



United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro will be paying a three-day visit to Lebanon on 11-13 September 2008 to attend a UN inter-coordination meeting.

During her stay in Lebanon, Migiro will meet with Lebanese leaders, including President Michel Suleiman, House Speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. "I will want to take the opportunity of my being in Beirut for the RCM to reassure the people and the leaders of Lebanon of the support of the Secretary-General and that of United Nations," she said.

Migiro will be attending the meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) that will be hosted on 13-14 September 2008 by UN-ESCWA. The RCM is intended to coordinate the work of UN Agencies in the region in order to avoid duplica-

tion and repetition of their activities.

"The RCM, formerly known as the Regional Coordination Group (RCG), was established pursuant to the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1998/46, which recognized that the team leadership role of Regional Commissions calls for their holding regular inter-agency meetings in each region with a view to improving coordination among the work programmes of the organizations of United Nations system in that region," Migiro said.

The RCM aims to strengthen coherence and cooperation among UN organizations in the Arab region; exchange information at the inter-agency level; and facilitate coordination and promote joint action in order to better serve the countries of the Arab region and to maximize combined impact of the UN work.

This year's RCM Meeting will review emerging global issues and challenges and their implication for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Arab region including the subjects of Climate Change and Food Security. In addition to that, the meeting will review the implementation of the recommendations of the last RCM meeting, which was held in June 2006 at the UN House in Beirut. Furthermore, the meeting will be launching an information guide supportive to Arab MDGs reports on Gender.

Asha-Rose Migiro of Tanzania took office as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations on 1 February 2007. She is the third Deputy Secretary-General to be appointed since the post was established in 1997.

Migiro served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation from 2006 to 2007

-- the first woman in the United Republic of Tanzania to hold that position since its independence in 1961.

As Foreign Minister, Migiro spearheaded Tanzania's engagement in the pursuit of peace, security and development in the Great Lakes Region.

The post of Deputy Secretary-General was established by the General Assembly at the end of 1997 as part of the reform of the United Nations, to help manage Secretariat operations and to ensure coherence of activities and programmes. The purpose was also to elevate the Organization's profile and leadership in the economic and social spheres. ■

For further information on Ms. Migiro: <http://www.un.org/sg/deputyysg.shtml>.

IN THIS ISSUE

- UN Deputy Secretary-General to Visit Lebanon
- UN-ESCWA Publications
- Facts and Figures

UN-ESCWA Publications

Financial Resources, Venture Capital and Pioneering Work in Information and Communication Technology

The development of appropriate financial instruments, provision of financial resources and venture capital, and support for and strengthening of innovative operations and pio-

neering work are essential in order to facilitate the provision of innovative solutions and the creation in the ESCWA region of a knowledge-based economy. Therefore, the study on "Financial Resources, Venture Capital and Pioneering Work in Information and Communication Technology" sheds light on the need to assign the highest priority to mechanisms for financing

innovation, and identifies venture capital as one of the most important mechanisms for financing information and communications technology, with the focus on financing for high-risk leases or new establishments and a description of their stages of growth. ■



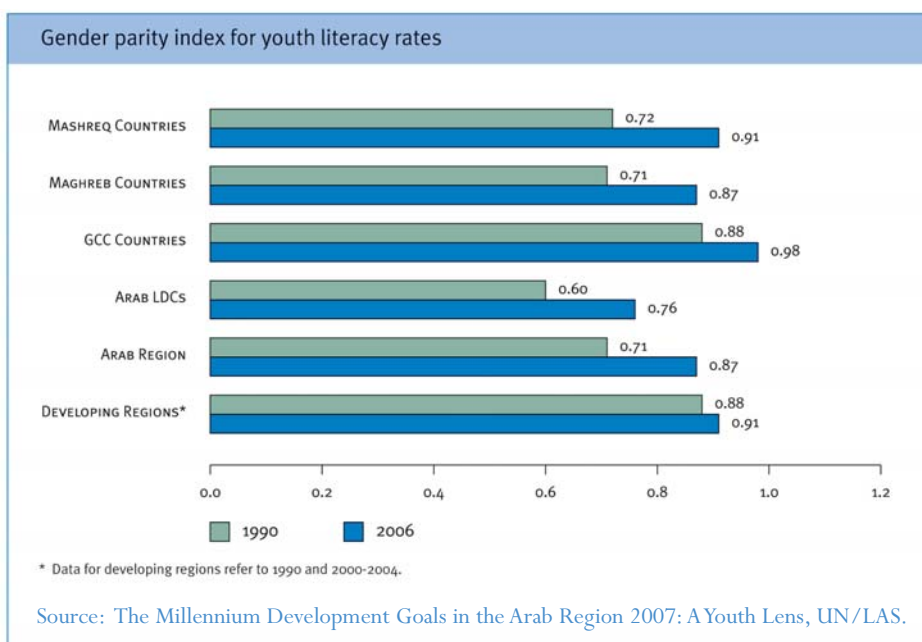
Facts and Figures: The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Gender parity index for youth literacy rates

Higher female enrolment and completion rates have contributed to major progress towards gender parity in literacy rates for the age group 15-24. Youth literacy Gender Parity Index (GPI) for the Arab region increased from 0.71 in 1990 to 0.87 in 2006. In the Mashreq countries, progress towards gender parity has been faster at the secondary and tertiary level of education than at the primary. The GPI value for the primary level increased only slightly from 0.86 in 1991, to 0.91 in 2005. That

relatively slow improvement in primary education is largely a result of a stagnating girls-to-boys enrolment ratio in Iraq. With respect to gender parity in youth literacy, the Mashreq is the Arab sub-region with the largest gains between 1990 and 2006. Since the early 1990s, the four Maghreb countries have all taken essential steps towards gender equality in education. GCC is the only sub-region that has reached full gender parity at the level of primary education. ■



Address

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut-Lebanon
Tel.: 961-1-981301; Fax: 961-1-981510

e-mail: webmaster-escwa@un.org
website: www.escwa.un.org