

# BULLETIN

United Nations Development Programme  
Washington Liaison Office



*The UNDP Washington **Bulletin** is a regular update by the Washington Office of UNDP activities and events. We invite you to share the **Bulletin** with interested colleagues.*

## UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MARKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY NOTING RECENT SUCCESSES, PERSISTING HURDLES

Speaking to this year's theme of "Women in Decision-Making", UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş noted the recent strides women have made to ascend to political power throughout the world. He also pointed out the significant hurdles that remain for women as they strive for equality and empowerment – and how UNDP helps to ensure women have the right and capacity to work effectively within political systems across the globe.

Read Kemal Derviş' full statement [here](#).

## DID YOU KNOW? THE UN IN IRAQ: ONGOING DEVELOPMENT

UNDP administers the UN Development Group (UNDG) Iraq Trust Fund on behalf of itself and other participating UN organizations. This trust fund, along with another administered by the World Bank, was created to help donor nations (including the United States) channel their resources and coordinate support for reconstruction and development in Iraq. To date, 24 donors have agreed with UNDP to contribute funds to the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund in order to ensure responsive financing for priority investments in the country.

The UNDG Trust Fund recently has made possible:

- The UN's support of the Iraqi electoral process, including the transport and supply of materials such as polling station kits, security seals, ballot boxes, voter lists, and indelible ink.
- Technical assistance provided by the UN, including the work of 25 electoral experts specializing in finance, operations, logistics, public outreach, and security.
- The UN's promotion of women's participation in the voting process through the use of audio and print materials, TV roundtables, and radio call-in programs. These campaigns contained messages that addressed men's responsibility in encouraging women to vote free of influence.
- The UN's help to Iraqi refugees and the internally displaced. For example, the UN recently supported the socioeconomic reintegration of returning families in Erbil Governorate. Through this project, several new villages were constructed and water, sanitation, and transportation infrastructure was extended. UNDP aided 182 beneficiary families in completing construction of their homes by the end of 2006.

Find out more about the UNDG Trust Fund [here](#). If you would like to receive its [newsletter](#) regularly, please contact Cara Santos Pianesi, details below.

## UNDP NAMES NEW ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR

We are pleased to announce that Ad Melkert took up the reins as UNDP's Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Melkert's appointment represents an enhanced role for UNDP's Associate Administrator – a move that will continue UNDP's success in management streamlining and UN reform.

Melkert has a longstanding involvement in issues of international and development cooperation. He began working for Novib, a Dutch non-governmental organization active in development issues. Since November 2002, Melkert has represented the Dutch constituency as an Executive Director of the World Bank. He has been a strong advocate for increased donor coordination and harmonization and for the need for more equitable development policies, good governance, and democratic institutions.

At age 30, Melkert became one of the youngest members of his country's Parliament. Prior to assuming leadership of the Dutch Labor Party, he was Minister of Social Affairs and Employment. He contributed actively to the completion of the International Labor Organization's Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention and has remained engaged in the struggle against child labor ever since. As Minister he led his country's Department of Equal Opportunities, and led the Dutch delegation to the UN Women's Conference in Beijing. Melkert holds a Master's degree in political science from the University of Amsterdam.

Upon his appointment to the post, Melkert said, "UNDP is on the front lines every day around the world, assisting those who need it most," said Melkert. "I am honored to have this opportunity to work with [UNDP Administrator] Kemal Derviş and the entire UNDP team on the invaluable work they do in support of the world's poor."

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*UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.*

**For additional information** on the above news, please contact communications officer Cara Santos Pianesi at **UNDP's Washington Office** at 202.331.9130 or [cara.santos@undp.org](mailto:cara.santos@undp.org).

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