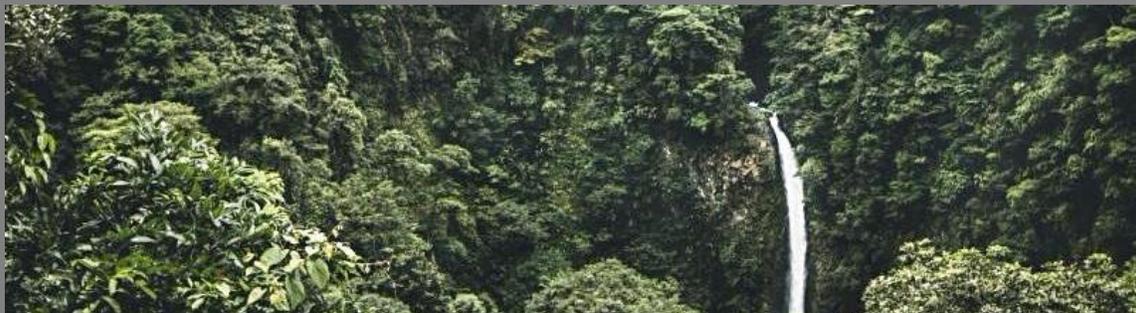




Global Development Update is a monthly bulletin that informs readers about the events, ideas, and people that are shaping an emerging world community.

FEATURED STORY



Reforestation will dramatically lower emissions

The Nature Conservancy and World Resources Institute [recently released new research](#) indicating that restoring forests could remove 7 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide every year. Such a move would be cost-effective, and just as valuable as eliminating 1.5 billion cars in the world.



Global Peace & Justice

UN works towards guidelines for autonomous killer robots

Artificial intelligence is widely regarded as [the next frontier in warfare](#). To address concerns about the largely unregulated field, the UN's Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) recently met to conceptualize rules to govern such weapons. 22 countries have requested to ban the weapons entirely.



ICC considers authorizing an investigation of war crimes in Afghanistan

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has [requested permission to begin an investigation](#) into violations of international humanitarian law in the ongoing war in Afghanistan. The prosecutor wants to investigate crimes committed by all sides of the conflict: Afghan government forces, the Taliban, and foreign forces, including the United States.



Human Rights

UK police are target of recently filed CEDAW case



Alleging institutionalized discrimination, [a group of women have filed a complaint](#) about the UK Metropolitan Police with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The women maintain they have suffered psychological harm as a result of having been deceived into relationships with undercover policemen.



Gender Equity

Violence against women a serious challenge in Latin America

The resurgence of conservative political parties in many Latin American countries [threatens to undermine advancements in women's rights in the region](#). Feminist activists cite recent attempts to eliminate sex education, end non-discrimination initiatives, and restrict access to legal abortion as indicative a wider anti-women doctrine that threatens to roll back important progress for





Environment & Sustainable Development

The secret to addressing climate change? Land restoration

[Land desertification is one of the primary challenges to feeding a population of 10 billion by 2050.](#) It is also a major cause of political and economic destabilization in regions where successive droughts have put strain on already limited resources. Focusing on the health of the land will go a long way towards addressing the environmental health of the planet.



Philippines leads national inquiry into link between industry and climate change

The Philippines has become the first country in the world to [initiate a national inquiry into corporate responsibility for climate change](#). The announcement came on December 11th, one day after Human Rights Day. The goal is to motivate companies to strengthen their commitment to phasing out fossil fuels.



Global Governance & Connectivity

U.S. increases tension with China by filing WTO trade brief

[U.S. officials have filed a brief with the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) to prevent China from receiving the designation of a "market economy." Currently, China is a "nonmarket economy," a classification that allows the United States to determine whether China sells products at artificially low prices in other economies — i.e. "dumps" them.



Russia barred from 2018 Winter Games

The International Olympic Committee has [barred Russia from participating in the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea](#). The punishment comes after a yearlong review into Russia's state-backed doping program. While Russian athletes can still participate in the Olympics as neutral individuals, Russian officials are forbidden from attending.



Poverty Reduction & Income Inequality

The global economic pie is growing (unevenly)

[Economic growth has been stronger in approximately two-thirds of the world's countries in 2017](#). Although that growth is expected to sustain through 2019, it is not distributed evenly. The most dynamic economic regions continue to be East and South Asia. Africa, Western Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, meanwhile, are poised for negligible per capita income growth.

World Inequality Report released

Global inequality has finally stabilized after years of widening. China and India have led the way in closing the gap, and the base of the pyramid will reap it's largest portion of the global income ever. According to the "[World Inequality Report](#)," however, which was published by the creators of the World Wealth and Income Database, profoundly concentrated pockets of inequality threaten to reverse these positive global trends.



About Global Development Update and TGCI

The Global Development Update focuses only on what is happening at the global level in six domains: Human Rights, Gender Equity, Environment & Sustainable Development, Poverty Reduction & Income Inequality, Global Governance & Connectivity, and Global Peace & Justice. It is intended for use by anyone concerned about the direction in which the world is going and the well being of our planet. Global Development Update is a publication of [The Global Citizens' Initiative](#) (TGCI); the editor is Camilla B. Vogt.

[TGCI](#) is an international non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote the practice of global citizenship and bring people and their organizations together to build a

sustainable world community for all. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.
Please send to editor@gcizen.org.

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