

## **Environmental threats could push billions into extreme poverty, warns UN (14 Mar 2013)**

### **hail [vt]**

to describe someone or something as being very good

### **impediment [n]**

a situation or event that makes it difficult or impossible for someone or something to succeed or make progress

a physical problem that makes speaking, hearing, or moving difficult

### **build on [phv]**

to use a success or achievement as a base from which to achieve more success

### **reverse [vt]**

to change something, such as a decision, judgment, or process so that it is the opposite of what it was before

to turn something over or around, in order to show the back of it

### **avert [vt]**

to prevent something unpleasant from happening

### **pay attention to something [phv]**

to watch, listen to, or think about something carefully

### **chronic [adj]**

a chronic problem is one that continues for a long time and cannot easily be solved

### **constrain [vt] (> constraint [n])**

to stop someone from doing what they want to do

to limit something

### **privilege [n] (> privileged [adj])**

a special advantage that is given only to one person or group of people

something that you are lucky to have the chance to do, and that you enjoy very much

### **eradicate [vt]**

to completely get rid of something such as a disease or a social problem

### **plank [n]**

one of the main features or principles of an argument etc

### **respective [adj]**

used before a plural noun to refer to the different things that belong to each separate person or thing mentioned

### **agenda [n]**

a list of problems or subjects that a government, organization etc is planning to deal with

### **estimate [vt]**

to try to judge the value, size, speed, cost etc of something, without calculating it exactly

### **drive [vt]**

to strongly influence someone to do something

### **halve [vt]**

to reduce something by a half

### **ahead of schedule**

happening or done earlier than the time that was planned

(cf. on schedule = not early or late; behind schedule = happening or done later than the time that was planned)

### **well-being [n]**

the well-being of a country is the state in which it is strong and doing well

### **proactive [adj]**

making things happen or change rather than reacting to events

### **bring about [phv]**

to cause something to happen

**transform [vt]**

to completely change the appearance, form, or character of something or someone, especially in a way that improves it

**single something/somebody out [phv]**

to choose one person or thing from a group for special attention, especially criticism or praise

**short-sighted [adj]**

not considering the possible effects in the future of something that seems good now - used to show disapproval

unable to see objects clearly unless they are very close

**austerity [n]**

when a government has a deliberate policy of trying to reduce the amount of money it spends

**stark [adj] (= harsh)**

unpleasantly clear and impossible to avoid

**representative [adj]**

a representative system of government allows people to vote for other people to represent them in the government

including examples of all the different types of something in a group

**foreign exchange reserves**

the foreign currency deposits and bonds held by central banks and monetary authorities

cf. the term in popular usage commonly includes foreign exchange and gold, SDRs and IMF reserve positions

**legitimate [adj]**

acceptable or allowed by law

**sovereign wealth funds / SWF**

a state-owned investment fund composed of financial assets such as stocks, bonds, property, precious metals or other financial instruments

**sum [n]**

an amount of money

the total produced when you add two or more numbers or amounts together

**swift [adj]**

happening or done quickly and immediately

**measurable [adj]**

large or important enough to have an effect that can be seen or felt