English Express

Yearbook of the United Nations

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The Yearbook Express features Yearbook chapter introductions, along with the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, for each year in question.

YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS 1983

Volume 37

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PART ONE
United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Following is the text of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, submitted to the General Assembly and dated 12 September 1983. The Assembly took note of the report on 5 December 1983 when it adopted decision 38/410.

In my annual report last year, I commented on the performance of the United Nations in discharging its primary duty of maintaining international peace and security and on ways in which that performance might be improved. I am gratified that those suggestions have been extensively discussed, both in the General Assembly and, in considerable detail and over a long period of time, by the Security Council. Certainly there is an urgent necessity to develop international institutions capable of encompassing the harsh realities of our time. But despite the interest displayed in my last annual report by the General Assembly and the will of the members of the Security Council to enhance and strengthen the performance of the Council, the actual developments of the past year have been far from encouraging. It seems to me that we are more than ever in need of a fresh collective look at some of the major problems of the world. The basic issue continues to be the development of, and commitment to, a working system of international security as an essential complement to progress in disarmament and arms limitation and a renewed effort at the highest level to strengthen international economic co-operation for growth and development.

There are a number of current problems affecting international peace, security and co-operation which cry out for a central instrument of co-operative effort through which Governments can control conflict and work out solutions. Despite the efforts of many, 1983 has, so far, been a frustrating year for the search for peace, stability and justice and for those who believe that the United Nations is the best available international instrumentality to achieve these ends. As I believe that the erosion of multilateral-ism and internationalism should be arrested and reversed, I propose in this report to concentrate on certain approaches which might make our Organization more effective as a political institution.

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The Charter of the United Nations clearly gives priority to dealing with threats to international peace and security and to the commitment of all nations, especially the permanent members of the Security Council, to co-operate within the framework of the United Nations towards this end. It is the weakening of this commitment that has, perhaps more than any other factor, led to the partial paralysis of the United Nations as the guardian of international peace and security.

Furthermore, when East-West tension is superimposed on regional conflicts and serves to exacerbate them, the already destructive nature of such disputes is likely to be aggravated and the danger of widening strife becomes an ominous prospect. On some occasions this process has gone so far that regional conflicts have been perceived as being wars by proxy among more powerful nations. In situations of this kind, the deliberative organs of the United Nations tend to be bypassed or excluded or, worse yet, to be used solely as a forum for polemical exchanges.

There have been, at any given time in past years, several regional situations with grave potential implications for international peace. At the present time, for example, such situations exist in South-East

Asia, Afghanistan, Central America, Namibia and several other parts of Africa including Chad, in the Middle East and Lebanon, Cyprus and in the Iran-Iraq war. I shall be dealing in more detail with most of these situations in separate reports either to the General Assembly or the Security Council.

Neither the Security Council nor any other international organ can in all cases hope to resolve in short order acute international conflict situations that may involve serious clashes of interest between the actual parties as well as between the members of the Council. The Security Council under the Charter has, however, the obligation to assist the parties in the search for solutions to international disputes. But above all it is the Council's duty to ensure that this process should remain peaceful, lest it endanger the wider peace. Even though the members of the Council may be profoundly divided about the merits of a given case, it is their duty to find ways and means of keeping the situation under control, without prejudice to the shape of an eventual settlement. Seen in this perspective, conflict control is a basic element of the primary responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

For their part, States and other parties to international disputes have a primary obligation at all stages to co-operate with the Security Council and the Secretary-General in suitable forms of conflict control. However, the willingness of the parties to co-operate with the United Nations will inevitably be contingent upon the capacity of the Organization to act as an effective and impartial instrument of peace. Only if this essential condition is achieved will Member States come to the realization that in times of trouble they can rely on the United Nations to help to restore or maintain the peaceful conditions in which negotiated solutions of the basic issues can be sought as part of a civilized and rational international order.

Aside from conflict control, the main objective of the Security Council, particularly of its permanent members, should be to develop an effective common approach to potential threats to international peace and security, to assist and, if necessary, to put pressure on the conflicting parties to resolve their differences justly and by peaceful means. Such a concerted approach would dispose of great resources of persuasion and, if necessary, of practical leverage. That, surely, is the approach to important conflict problems which the authors of the Charter had in mind. This approach would go a long way to developing in practice a system for international peace and security designed to supersede arms races, military and other forms of conflict and the inherent risk of ultimate disaster. This is, after all, the basic idea of the Charter.

Unfortunately, we are in danger of becoming accustomed to a very different situation. All too often the members of the Security Council tend to be so divided on the matter at hand and so apprehensive of each other's reaction to it that agreement on how to proceed remains elusive. When we consider how to improve the performance of the United Nations we must give priority to the cohesion and co-operation of the membership in facing threats to international peace. We should recognize that such threats are of an importance which should override the differences of interest and ideology which separate the membership. The Council must be primarily used for the prevention of armed conflict and the search for solutions. Otherwise it will become peripheral to major issues, and in the end the world could pay, as it has before, a heavy price for not learning the lessons of history.

If this analysis seems Utopian, it is certainly preferable to a course of action which risks, through partisanship, the elevating of a local conflict into a world confrontation. Indeed, the habit of adopting a concerted approach to problems of international peace and security might lead to the statesmanlike co-operation which will be essential in bridging the great present divisions of our international society and in turning the tide in crucial matters such as disarmament and arms control.

We have this year witnessed some notable efforts to maintain unity and realism in the Security Council on highly charged issues. I am thinking in particular of the Council's proceedings on the complaint of Nicaragua and the Namibia question, which revealed a constructive search for consensus on difficult and controversial problems. This is indeed a step forward, but the next step may be more difficult, namely, to put the necessary leverage and movement into the decisions of the Council.

We must, I believe, firmly persevere in the effort to move from words to action. In this context, and having in mind the views expressed by the members of the Security Council, I have, in the course of this year, kept the Council informed of the responsibilities entrusted to me and of my efforts to discharge them. I have also, within the Secretariat, initiated steps in order to be alerted in advance to incipient problems. I look forward to working with the Council in order to develop a wider and more systematic capacity for fact-finding in potential conflict areas.

As Secretary-General I am the repository of numerous injunctions to use my best efforts, to keep in contact with the parties and to report on a wide variety of problems that no one has been able to solve. Resolutions are passed, on occasion requesting reports which form the basis for new resolutions. This process often becomes the substitute for action, and indeed the antithesis of it. Once again I wish to urge the necessity for realistic and politically effective approaches to problems. I welcome the indications of a trend in this direction.

Naturally, I and my colleagues do our best to follow up on important issues before the Organization. I cannot, however, escape the feeling that decisions of the United Nations on important issues require more than this. As I said last year, I believe that decisions of the various organs should be the beginning, not the end, of governmental concern and action. A continuous effort to contribute to the implementation of United Nations decisions should be an integral part of the foreign policy of Member States to a far greater extent than it is at the present time.

It is deeply disturbing to me as Secretary-General, while pursuing efforts to solve this or that problem, to receive the impression that some Governments sometimes attach little importance to the decisions they themselves have participated in at the United Nations. Conversely it is most encouraging—as I have found in my visits to numerous capitals in the past year—that a basic faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter remains a dominant theme. I wish here to repeat with all possible emphasis the statement in my last report that an essential first step towards strengthening the United Nations would be a conscious recommitment to the Charter by all Governments. With an objective as elusive and as vital as the preservation of peace, a sense of shared purpose and direction is imperative.

* * *

In no area is the need for a recommitment to the principles of the Charter more important and more closely tied to the survival of humanity than in the field of disarmament and arms limitation. The prevention of nuclear war remains the unique challenge of our time, since such a war would be the ultimate negation of all human endeavour. While the international community as a whole is deeply concerned with this vital problem, the key to its solution is in the hands of the two major nuclear Powers.

The current bilateral negotiations on the reduction of strategic and intermediate-range nuclear forces are of vital importance in the face of the destabilizing effects of advancing technology and the continuing arms race. It seems likely that the mood and outcome of these talks will decisively affect the general climate of international relations in the future, as well as the chances of progress on other aspects of disarmament.

The failure so far to achieve real progress in these negotiations can only cause us all profound alarm. If they should fail, we may be faced with another significant escalation in the spiralling arms competition. A development of this kind would inevitably add to the world's burden of insecurity and instability. The situation could well become virtually irreversible if the establishment of viable methods of arms limitation is jeopardized by the development of new weapons systems, and if either side, in search of military advantage, deploys strategic weapons that suggest an attempt to reach out for first-strike capability. Currently, perhaps even more acute is the problem of intermediate-range missiles, which may reach a critical stage unless the present negotiations bear fruit. Beyond all this there looms the longer-term prospect of the militarization of outer space and the computerization and automation of warfare, which could eventually escape political control altogether.

I have no doubt that the responsible leaders on both sides are aware of the ominous prospects, and of the crying need for renewed determination to move the current Geneva talks forward. In this connection, I might venture the observation that in this field there are no bargaining chips. Each side seems determined to respond to any advance achieved by the other side by matching it rather than by making concessions.

In view of the urgency of the situation, especially as regards intermediate-range forces, I hope that the parties will give thought to possible interim measures that would keep open the possibility of negotiations. I further recall that certain promising compromise proposals have been informally discussed in Geneva. It is important to bear in mind that negotiations on one weapons system intended to deter one particular threat are inextricably linked to perceptions of the overall threat and to negotiations on other weapons systems. It is therefore imperative to reduce the totality of mutual threat by moving in the direction of more stable systems. The extension of the mutual observance of current limitations would also be helpful in order to allow consideration of a new longer-term approach. Future limits on qualitative improvements and modernization could provide a useful subject of discussion in both sectors of the Geneva talks. The object, while preserving military parity, should be to promote equal security for all at progressively decreasing levels and under effective international control.

I share the general anxiety about the possible uses of outer space for military purposes, and I welcome recent suggestions to deal with important aspects of this problem. I would strongly urge that comprehensive negotiations should begin at an early date on a peaceful régime for outer space. To improve the atmosphere, it would also be desirable to lend fresh impetus to the talks on banning the production of chemical weapons and destroying existing stocks. Enough work has already been done to provide the basis for the long-awaited convention on this subject. Furthermore, I would urge a renewed effort to conclude negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-weapon test ban. This would significantly help to halt the nuclear-arms race by impeding the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons. All these questions are currently under consideration in the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva. In addressing that body earlier this year, I urged its members not to let their vital work fall hostage to lack of progress elsewhere.

The situation relating to conventional arms is a source of increasing concern. It is necessary to bear in mind that the many millions killed in war since Hiroshima and Nagasaki have all died from conventional weapons. This situation has had a corrosively harmful effect not least on the world's developing countries, which feel obliged to spend an increasing proportion of their resources for defence purposes, often to the detriment of essential needs. It is of course the right and duty of all nations to provide for their self-defence. But unresolved disputes tend to provoke regional arms races and the international tensions accompanying competitive arms purchases can no longer be ignored.

In the Final Document of the 1978 special session on disarmament, the General Assembly called for consultations among major arms supplier and recipient countries to limit transfers of conventional weapons, in order to preserve security and promote stability at a lower military level. No concrete action has been taken so far to follow up that appeal. I would therefore suggest that the two Governments concerned give careful thought to the possibility of reviving the bilateral talks on conventional arms transfers, which were suspended in 1978. The scope of these talks could eventually be enlarged, perhaps within the framework of the Committee on Disarmament, to cover multilateral aspects and to provide representation of recipient as well as supplier countries.

The United Nations, as stated in the concluding documents of the two special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, has a central role to play in this field. At its thirty-seventh session, the Assembly adopted a record number of resolutions on disarmament matters, including over 20 dealing with nuclear questions. They reflect the deeply felt concern of many Governments with the present situation. World public opinion is increasingly reacting against the constant threat of extinction hanging over humanity, in a world where despite our vaunted advances in science and human knowledge we cannot even assure our children of their future. In this context, I urge all Members to give full support to the World Disarmament Campaign of the United Nations, which was launched at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. In an area hitherto marked by polemics, this campaign will enable the Organization to disseminate objective information worldwide so as to provide a solid, factual basis for constructive public involvement and understanding.

* * *

In the common quest to realize the ideals and objectives of the Charter, we must never lose sight of the quality of the world we are seeking to build and of the ultimate raison d'être for all our activities: the individual human being, for whom the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims the right to a social and international order in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

Over the past years, there has developed a growing trend for international co-operation in dealing with human rights issues. In addition to the elaboration of international conventions since the Declaration, I should like to mention the work of the Commission on Human Rights on arbitrary and summary executions and the holding of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

However, despite the progress achieved at the international level, gross violations of human rights and restrictions of fundamental freedoms are still taking place in many parts of the world. Racism and racial discrimination in various forms, including the totally unacceptable policy of apartheid, have not been eradicated. There are still far too many refugees, uprooted and destitute as a result of political conflicts.

The problem of refugees can be resolved only with a settlement of the root political causes. In the mean time, various United Nations operations and programmes have provided emergency assistance to many refugees and displaced persons and helped to alleviate their plight in some measure. But this is clearly not enough in spite of the effectiveness and devotion of the United Nations personnel involved. The means available to the Organization are grossly inadequate in relation to the actual needs. I earnestly hope that Governments as well as voluntary agencies will intensify their support of the United Nations for this important humanitarian endeavour.

I attach the highest importance to the question of human rights and I believe it my responsibility to consider the most effective means of dealing with specific cases. Taking into account the nature of my office and mindful of the kind of approach necessary to achieve practical results, I have been in contact with a number of Governments regarding particular human rights situations or individual cases. I am heartened by the instances in which co-operation has been extended to me in these contacts, and I am determined to persist in my efforts.

* * *

The Preamble of the Charter expresses the determination of the peoples of the United Nations "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" and to this end "to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples".

I am convinced that the impressive economic progress since the Second World War-in which almost all nations have shared-owes a great deal to multilateral co-operation which the United Nations has helped to bring about and develop. Recent trends and events, however, far from strengthening such co-operation, mark a clear retreat from these efforts. Indeed, while the effects of economic interdependence, due to growing integration in trade, finance and money, are widely acknowledged, obvious opportunities to address the major issues in these areas are being repeatedly missed. There can be no doubt that today more than ever many individual nations are affected- for good or ill-by trends elsewhere and by the decisions of others. Furthermore, there are categories of problems which can only be dealt with multilaterally or globally. All these developments intensify the need for international mechanisms to bring about greater harmonization of national policies.

Unilateral actions, taken without due regard for their effects on partner countries, would inevitably lead to the weakening of economic co-operation, thereby damaging world growth and development. They would lead to economic nationalism, the evil effects of which we witnessed during the '30s. Unresolved economic conflicts can be, and usually are, a breeding ground for dangerous political tensions.

A major economic imperative of our times is the accelerated development of the developing countries. The eradication of the poverty that continues to be widespread in several parts of the world must remain a collective responsibility. The needs of the least developed and other poor countries require particular attention. The total population of developing countries is projected to increase from around 3 billion to approximately 5 billion by the end of the century, that is, within less than two decades.

The slowing, and sometimes the halt, in the development process that has taken place in recent years should be seen as a temporary phenomenon that must be reversed in the coming years. In the mean time, every effort has to be made to reduce the vulnerability of developing countries to external shocks and to assist them in attaining greater autonomy and freedom of action, both by themselves and in co-operation with other countries-developed and developing.

At the same time, it is necessary to realize a higher level of growth in the industrialized countries. Thirty-two million people are unemployed in the OECD countries alone, and this figure is likely to rise in the immediate future. A burden of this magnitude cannot be economically or politically accepted as a permanent part of the realities of these countries. The need for investment in order to fight unemployment, to ensure structural adjustments and to deal with the needs of underprivileged areas and groups requires higher growth in that region. This would also encourage better prospects for

increased trade and transfer of resources from the industrialized countries to the developing countries. Similar considerations call for high growth in socialist economies as well.

I have recently presented, in statements to intergovernmental bodies, my views on ways to revive the world economy and resume the process of development. There is a primary need for action at the national level to correct economic and social imbalances. Such efforts need to be supported by concerted action among nations and the assistance of multilateral institutions. In this connection I have emphasized the need to make additional finance available as part of concerted policies for world recovery and to examine basic reforms in international trade, money and finance. Economic co-operation among developing countries also needs strengthening.

The recently concluded sixth session of UNCTAD provided an important opportunity to counter the present negative trends and to demonstrate the capacity and the will of Governments to overcome difficulties and to act together. Unfortunately, the results of this important Conference are not commensurate with the gravity of the situation in developing countries and the requirements of the world economy in general, and there was a failure to respond to the need for concerted international action. The opportunity of UNCTAD VI was to a large extent allowed to lapse, thus exacerbating political tensions on a range of economic issues. It is regrettable that efforts at flexibility, as evinced, for example, at the Buenos Aires and New Delhi meetings, did not evoke a comparable response. Nevertheless, it is my view that the consensus achieved at Belgrade on several issues could constitute a worthwhile step provided there is a continuing process of dialogue and action. In this context and despite the remaining obstacles, we must activate the process of negotiation between the developed and developing countries on long-term problems in several interrelated areas and at a high political level.

Let me now turn to the role of the United Nations on economic issues. How effective is the United Nations in discharging the responsibilities with which it has been entrusted by its Charter? Contrary to the perceptions of some, the Organization has been successful in anticipating and identifying issues of importance, mobilizing public opinion, researching and analysing critical problems, providing direct assistance within its means and negotiating constructive agreements in various sectors of activity.

The record of performance and accomplishments of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields is varied and substantial. Through a vast network of technical co-operation activities, organizations of the United Nations system continue to assist developing countries in formulating and implementing a large number of specific projects, ranging from the establishment of primary health care centres to highly sophisticated institutions of agronomic research and training, and technology.

However, I am very much aware that much more needs to be done to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system and to ensure its responsiveness to changing needs. This requires efforts on the part of the Secretariat as well as of the Member States.

I shall deal elsewhere in this report with issues relating to the improvement of the administration of the Secretariat. There is a need to ensure more concerted action by the organizations of the United Nations system in dealing with the important issues of development and international economic co-operation and in their work at the field level.

As regards Governments, it is important to ensure greater cohesion and consistency in their positions in the different intergovernmental bodies. A greater sense of priority in the deliberations of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council would encourage more effective consideration of issues. It would also strengthen the impact of resolutions. Frequently such resolutions lead to a

proliferation of institutions. This can hamper efficiency and add substance to criticism of an ever-expanding bureaucracy. Improvement is also needed in the machinery and methods of negotiation.

Innovative measures should be considered to foster the habit of co-operation. In this connection, I wish to underline the need to strengthen the efforts of the United Nations system to support the initiatives of developing countries to promote co-operation among themselves through the implementation of specific and action-oriented measures.

It is incumbent on us to seize every opportunity to carry forward the development dialogue, setting aside, where necessary, traditional practices or methods which may be obsolete, and testing new means of strengthening the collective effort of Member States to attain their common objectives.

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No organization can succeed if its administrative system is inarticulate or unresponsive to its real needs. While there have been criticisms of the United Nations administration as inflated, politicized or extravagant, it is also necessary to understand its fundamental nature and problems. In the full knowledge that much responsible criticism is justified, let me, as chief administrative officer of the United Nations, attempt a brief look at the problems and realities which we face.

The administration of the United Nations is not like the administration of a national Government. For one thing, the Organization has 157 Members, with widely differing notions of administration. For another, it has existed for less than 38 years, a period of great flux in which its membership has more than trebled and the emphasis of its work dramatically changed. The principle of equitable geographical representation, which is essential, nevertheless poses its own considerable problems in the building up of a coherent international civil service. And the fact that there is often on one side of an administrative or budgetary issue a relatively small number of Member States that provide the bulk of the budget, and on the other a majority in the General Assembly that do not, also imposes stresses and strains. These and other factors render the Secretary-General's task as chief administrative officer a complex and sometimes exasperating one, for while all profess their dedication to the principles of independent and objective international administration, few refrain from trying to bring pressure to bear in favour of their own particular interests. This is especially so on the personnel side.

Article 97 of the Charter, which designates the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer of the Organization, gives no precise indication of the functions involved nor of how these functions are to be delimited against those of other principal organs, particularly the General Assembly. I shall not go into detail here about the various fields in which this lack of precision creates problems.

The General Assembly is, of course, preeminent. It appoints the Secretary-General under Article 97. It has the power of the purse (Article 17), the power to discuss "any matters. relating to the powers and functions of any organs" (Article 10) and to establish regulations for the governance of the Secretariat (Article 101). In other words, the Assembly lays down the general legislative framework within which the Secretary-General performs the executive functions entrusted to him by the Charter. The problem is that there is no defined borderline between the legislative and the executive. This can on occasion have an inhibiting effect on the Secretary-General in instituting and carrying out coherent policies, under the Charter, in recruiting, administering and running the Secretariat and the administration.

Thus in personnel matters, the Charter distribution of functions may be seen as blurred if decisions in respect of individual staff members, or the power to appoint a staff member or part of the staff, are vested in authorities other than the Secretary-General. This is also true of the increasingly

detailed directives issued in recent years by the General Assembly concerning various aspects of recruitment, even if these merely reflect its frustration at the administration's failure to achieve, or the slow pace in achieving, goals set in earlier and more general guidelines as to the geographical, gender, linguistic and age distribution of the staff. While it is not my intention to raise constitutional or legal objections to these detailed directives, the fact remains that rigid directives can be counter-productive from a political and administrative point of view and may not always be conducive to the smooth functioning or efficient administration of the Organization. A case in point is the recent decision curtailing the Secretary-General's hitherto unquestioned authority to promulgate Staff Rules, as distinct from the Regulations issued by the General Assembly.

Another, perhaps unintended, consequence is that an effective career development programme is becoming increasingly difficult to work out. A programme of this kind, which I consider essential for the future capacity of the Secretariat as well as for the morale and encouragement of the present staff, presupposes considerable flexibility in conducting an active personnel policy. The current trend seems to be pushing us in the opposite direction.

The Charter is silent as to any explicit financial or budgetary functions of the Secretary-General, although the Financial Regulations and other decisions of the General Assembly assign to him substantial functions in this area. Of these, perhaps the most important is the preparation of the proposed programme budget for each financial period, upon which the General Assembly makes the final decision. The Secretary-General needs to retain the degree of authority necessary to maintain the financial integrity of the Organization and to safeguard the concept of a unified Secretariat. This necessity has, with minor exceptions, by and large been recognized. In the budget adoption process, it is inevitable that differences of opinion will arise at times between the Secretary-General and the Fifth Committee or the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. This is completely normal; there is nothing wrong in a process in which the Secretary-General defends his proposals fully and fairly and then implements faithfully whatever decision the Assembly may take thereon.

As regards the structure of the Secretariat, there are, since it is determined by the budget, very considerable restrictions on the Secretary-General's freedom of action. One trend, however, deserves mention here, namely, the tendency to establish more or less autonomous units to carry out certain functions-organs over which the Secretary-General does not have clear control. This trend raises serious questions of organizational responsibility and authority and may sometimes not be altogether consistent with the Charter concept of a unified Secretariat working as a team under a single leadership.

At the same time, critical attention needs to be given to the internal administrative set-up. After nearly four decades of wear and tear it needs a careful overhaul so as to ensure that it meets with increased efficiency the needs of this larger, more complex and more decentralized Organization. To that end I have recently established a high-level advisory group on administrative reform to identify issues and areas in which modification or reform could be effected.

Very often I find myself caught between the directives of the General Assembly, the interests of the staff and the imperatives of good and efficient administration in accordance with the Charter. I believe that it is in the general interest that we act together in full knowledge of the practical difficulties of the enterprise and with the united objective of strengthening the Secretariat and the administration.

This is, admittedly, a formidable task, complicated by the accretion of 38 years of experiment, development and change. I therefore intend to give priority in the coming year to a searching examination and appraisal of the administration with a view to improvement. But I should be less than frank not to pose here the question that often arises in my mind: Does the Secretary-General still have sufficient authority effectively to meet his responsibilities as chief administrative officer of the United Nations?

* * *

Thirty-eight years after the Second World War it would seem that the drive towards an effective, peaceful and more equitable international order has slowed, and the incentive to develop international institutions corresponding to the realities and risks of our time has weakened. Political will to these ends, in its best sense, has been dissipated in a variety of rivalries, confrontations and conflicts. The belief in a common future has been, to a large extent, lost in the anxieties of a divided present. Short-term national interests, old resentments and fears, and ideological differences have obscured the vision of the Charter. The will to compose differences seems weak or absent in most conflict situations, and at the other end of the spectrum the concept of world affairs dominated by concerns for national security or conceived as an open-ended struggle between massive ideological forces seems to have taken the place of the new and enlightened international community envisaged in the Charter. In this connection, the recent tragedy of the downed Korean airliner, and the very serious issues it raises, also points dramatically to the urgent need for more open and ready communications between all sides in the interests of the international community as a whole in order to create an environment in which the use of force would be unthinkable.

Admittedly, we have been through a period of fundamental change in the world-geopolitical change, technological change and a revolutionary change in the nature and scope of war. But all of these things demand more than ever a return to the far-sighted statesmanship of the immediate post-war years, not a retreat from it. Who can possibly believe that a world dominated by the nuclear balance, where $800 billion a year is spent on armaments and where a large proportion of the population lives in destitution and with little real hope, is on the right track? And yet, paradoxically, for the time being at any rate, the United Nations, which was set up to deal with such problems, is too often on the sidelines as far as many major issues are concerned.

We are at present in a period when the value of multilateral diplomacy is being questioned and international institutions are not functioning as they were intended to function. The machinery is running and the wheels are turning, but it is not moving forward as it should. This applies to the United Nations and, in different degrees, to regional organizations and to many international agencies and groupings. Nor is it evident that bilateral diplomacy or unilateral efforts are, in most cases, filling the gap by providing that correlation of national policies which is essential to future stability and the general international interest. We must find means to push the machinery into forward motion again. If we do not do this, we run the risk of being caught, immobile and in the open, in a new international storm too great for us to weather.

Let me here point to a source of real encouragement. It is perhaps best symbolized in the proposal of the Chairman of the seventh non-aligned summit conference, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, that the United Nations should be strengthened by a meeting of heads of State or Government to give a fresh collective look at some of the major problems of the world. At this critical time in human relations it is encouraging that the nonaligned movement has spoken as a protagonist of the multilateral approach and of the purposes and principles of the Charter. Nor is such a view by any means limited to the non-

aligned movement. In meetings with many leaders throughout the world I have been impressed by the evident desire to see the United Nations function in the manner in which it was intended to function.

It is therefore paradoxical that we should be experiencing, I trust only temporarily, the fragmentation and erosion of the historic effort to build an international system designed to provide peace, security, stability and justice for all. Although in the short term the world may get by without such an effort, in the long term such a system, evolving through a conscious political effort by all States, is indispensable if we are to avoid chaos and disaster on a scale hitherto unknown. At the present time we are witnessing instead the unravel-ling of many agreements reached! by hard and painstaking negotiation over the years. It is absolutely vital that this trend be reversed and. that we strengthen our international institutions, not only in order to deal with immediate conflict problems but also to construct a viable framework. for the life of future generations on our crowded planet.

Javier PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR
Secretary-General

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

At its 82nd plenary meeting, on 5 December 1983, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.

General Assembly decision 38/410

Adopted without vote

Oral proposal by President; agenda item 10.

Meeting number. GA 38th session: plenary 82.

Chapter I (pp. 11-95)
Disarmament

GENERAL ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT, 11, Proposed comprehensive programme, 12, Committee on Disarmament, 13, Disarmament Commission, 14, Special sessions of the General Assembly on disarmament, 15, Implementation of the 1979 Declaration on co-operation for disarmament, 17, Disarmament negotiations, 19; NUCLEAR WEAPONS, 19, Nuclear disarmament, 19, Prevention of nuclear war, 28, Proposed nuclear-weapon freeze, 31, Draft convention against nuclear weapons, 34, Proposed negotiations on the neutron bomb, 35, Nuclear non-proliferation, 36, Cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, 48, Fissionable materials for nuclear weapons, 53, Strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, 54; OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, 57, Chemical and biological weapons, 57, Radiological weapons, 62, New weapons of mass destruction, 64; CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, 65, Group of Experts, 65, Ratification of the 1980 Convention and Protocols, 66, Naval armaments, 67; OTHER ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT AND RELATED MATTERS, 69, Military budgets and expenditures, 70, Arms race in outer space and anti-satellite systems, 73, Regional disarmament, 76, Confidence-building measures, 79, Disarmament and international security, 81, Disarmament and development, 84, Military research and development, 86, Parties and signatories to disarmament agreements, 86, Proposed World Disarmament Conference, 86, Public information, 87, Disarmament research, 91, Fellow- ships, 93, Organizational aspects, 94.

In 1983, most of the United Nations efforts for disarmament and arms limitation, including proposals renewed or initiated, were manifestations of global concern about the current situation and consisted of appeals, rather than implementation of concrete steps, for its improvement.

The Committee on Disarmament-the main intergovernmental negotiating body on dis-armament-met at Geneva from 1 February to 29 April and from 14 June to 30 August, with substantially the same agenda as in 1982. It decided to designate itself as the Conference on Disarmament starting in 1984, and agreed to a limited expansion of its membership. The Disarmament Commission, composed of all United Nations Member States, held its 1983 session from 9 May to 3 June at United Nations Headquarters.

At its 1983 regular session, the General Assembly examined 25 disarmament items, including four new items concerning: the 1985 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, a proposed treaty on the non-use of force in outer space, condemnation of nuclear war and a nuclear-weapon freeze. In December, 62 resolutions and two decisions were adopted on these items, including an agreement to hold, not later than 1988, the Assembly's third special session devoted to disarmament. As in previous years, all disarmament items were considered by the Assembly's First Committee, where the question of the bilateral nuclear arms negotiations between the USSR and the United States-which were suspended towards the end of 1982—was one of the subjects of intense consideration.

The year 1983 marked the entry into force of the 1980 Convention, and its three Protocols, on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

At the beginning of the year, the Centre for Disarmament was transformed into the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

assumed an autonomous status, and the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies was revived with additional functions, as agreed by the Assembly in 1982.

Details on these subjects together with the full texts of the related resolutions or decisions adopted by the General Assembly can be found under the relevant subject headings on the following pages. For resolutions and decisions of major organs mentioned but not reproduced in this chapter, refer to INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS.

Topics related to this chapter. Peaceful uses of outer space. International peace and security: implementation of the 1970 Declaration. Arms race and environment. Arms race and social development.

Chapter II (pp. 96-103)
Peaceful uses of outer space

SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 96; SPACE LAW, 99; ACTION BY PRINCIPAL UN ORGANS, 100; SPACECRAFT LAUNCHINGS, 103.

Questions relating to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space continued to be discussed during 1983 in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Committee on outer space), in its two sub-committee and the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee-and in the General Assembly.

In December, the Assembly considered a number of recommendations made by the Committee and adopted a resolution (38/80) on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space in which, among other things, it called on States to negotiate promptly to halt the militarization of outer space.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: arms race in outer space. Other administrative and management questions: communications satellite.

Chapter III (pp. 104-109)
Law of the Sea

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 104, Preparatory Commission, 104, Functions of the Secretary-General, 105, Sea-bed mining, 106; ACTION BY PRINCIPAL UN ORGANS, 107.

The first steps were taken during 1983 towards implementing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

By the end of 1983, there were 132 signatories to the Convention, while eight States and the United Nations Council for Namibia, on behalf of Namibia, had ratified it.

The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea held its first session and the Secretary-General assumed his responsibilities under the Convention through the Office of his Special Representative.

By resolution 38/59 A, adopted in December, the General Assembly called on States that had not done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and appealed to States to refrain from any action that would undermine it. Also in December, the Assembly, by resolution 38/59 B, paid tribute to Bernardo Zuleta, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea from 1974 until his death on 2 December 1983.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: naval disarmament. Transport: maritime transport. Natural resources: marine resources. Environment: marine ecosystems. International Court of Justice: continental shelf boundary between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Malta; Canada-United States boundary in the Gulf of Maine.

Chapter IV (pp. 110-118)
International peace and security

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1970 DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 110; IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECURITY PROVISIONS OF THE UN CHARTER, 113; REVIEW OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS, 114; INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE (1986), 117; PEACE OBSERVATION COMMISSION, 118.

Several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in 1983 dealt with international peace and security. In resolution 38/190, the Assembly put forward suggestions to improve international security. By resolution 38/191, it established an Ad Hoc Committee to seek ways to implement the collective security provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. In resolution 38/81, the Assembly, urging full co-operation in United Nations peace-keeping operations, expressed concern about their difficult financial situation. By resolution 38/56, it requested the Secretary-General to set up a fund for the programme of the International Year of Peace (1986) and called for voluntary contributions. In other action, the Assembly abolished the Peace Observation Commission.

The Secretary-General, in his annual report to the Assembly (p. 3), reviewed current problems affecting international peace and security which, he said, cried out for a central instrument of co-operative effort through which Governments could control conflict and work out solutions.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: general aspects of disarmament; international security of non-nuclear-weapon States; disarmament and international security. Human rights: human rights and international security. Legal aspects of international political relations: force in international relations; good-neighbourliness among States; dispute settlement; draft code of offences against peace and security. International organizations and international law: strengthening the role of the United Nations.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter V (pp. 119-194)
Africa

In the political sphere, much of the work of the United Nations in 1983 pertaining to Africa focused on southern Africa, in particular on ways to end the apartheid policies of South Africa. In a series of resolutions adopted in December, the General Assembly took action on ways to bring about the end of apartheid. It requested the Security Council to consider action against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations which deals with action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression. The Assembly requested that the Council consider comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa, and called for a strengthening of the mandatory arms embargo imposed since 1977. Recommendations for international action against apartheid were also made by the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, among others. Such activities included drafting a convention against apartheid in sports, special aid programmes for apartheid victims and promoting the international campaign against apartheid by informing the public. Special attention was given to political prisons, in particular to the-three members of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) who were executed in 1983, and women and children.

A related area of concern for the United Nations was South Africa's relations with the other States of the region, especially its aggression against Angola, Lesotho and Mozambique, which the Assembly condemned. In December, the Security Council, acting on Angola's complaint, demanded that South Africa withdraw its occupying forces from Angola. By a June resolution, the Council took action on Lesotho, requesting special economic assistance for that country for those needs (mainly security and health services, food supplies and construction) identified by a Council mission sent there in January.

In 1983, both Chad and Egypt claimed that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, had violated their territories. Chad twice brought its complaint to the Security Council, and in April the Council urged the two sides to work towards a settlement and to use the mechanism of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)for that purpose.

The Assembly in November reaffirmed the sovereignty of the Comoros over the Indian Ocean island of Mayotte. In October, it called for further co-operation between OAU and the United

Nations system. The Security Council concluded its mission to investigate the origin and damages of a 1981 attack on Seychelles. During 1983, the United Kingdom and Mauritius disputed each other's claims to sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, a group of islands in the Indian Ocean. The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa continued to provide scholarships and, in December, the Assembly appealed for increased contributions to the Programme.

Topics related to this chapter. Mediterranean: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya-United States dispute. Transnational corporations. Regional economic and social activities: Africa. Environment: environment and apartheid. Human rights: human rights violations-South Africa and Namibia. Refugees: Africa. Namibia.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter VI (pp. 195-217)
Americas

During 1983, both the Security Council and the General Assembly addressed serious situations in Central America and Grenada.

The Council met in March, May and September to consider Nicaragua's complaints of aggression against it. In May, by resolution 530(1983), the Council urged the Contadora Group-Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela-to spare no effort to find solutions to the problems affecting the Central American region, while in November, by resolution 38/10, the Assembly urged States to refrain from military operations that might hamper the Group's negotiating efforts.

Following internal political unrest in Grenada and the intervention therein by the United States and several Caribbean countries, the Council considered the question in October; a draft resolution, calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops, was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member, the United States. However, in November, the Assembly, by resolution 38/7, made that call and requested that free elections be quickly organized.

Details of these subjects as well as a brief account of communications concerning the relations between Nicaragua and several States-Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and the United States-and between Belize and Guatemala can be found in this chapter.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: nuclear-weapon-free zones-Latin America. Regional economic and social activities: Latin America. Human rights: Latin America. Refugees and humanitarian assistance: Americas. Other colonial Territories: Falkland Islands (Malvinas) question.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter VII (pp. 218-242)
Asia and the Pacific

Several areas of international tension in Asia and the Pacific occupied the attention of the United Nations during 1983.

The Security Council met in September to consider the shooting down by the USSR of a passenger aircraft belonging to the Republic of Korea; a draft resolution on the incident was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent Council member, the USSR. (See also PART TWO, Chapter X.)

In Korea, the United Nations Command continued to monitor the 1953 Armistice Agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

The focus of attention in South-East Asia continued to be the situation in Kampuchea. In pursuance of its mandate to assist in seeking a settlement of that situation, the Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea sent two missions to live capitals and to Geneva for consultations, and the General Assembly, in October, restated its view of the principal components of a just and lasting solution.

In western Asia, the situation in and around Afghanistan continued to be dealt with by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly. The Secretary-General and his Personal Representative continued contacts with Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan in a search for a political solution. The Assembly, in November, reiterated its call for an immediate foreign troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and the establishment of conditions to permit the Afghan people to exercise self-determination.

With respect to south-western Asia, the Iran-Iraq conflict, ongoing since 1980, was again taken up by the Security Council. Through its President, the Council in February 1983 called for an immediate cease-fire. In addition, in October, it called for an immediate cessation of all military attacks on civilian targets and of all hostilities in the Gulf region; it requested the Secretary-General to consult with the parties on ways to sustain and verify the cessation of hostilities, including the possible dispatch of United Nations observers.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: zones of peace—Indian Ocean region and South-East Asia. Regional economic and social activities: Asia and the Pacific. Refugees and humanitarian assistance: East Asia; South Asia; Oceania; South-west Asia.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter VIII (pp. 243-266)
Mediterranean

In 1983, the United Nations focused its attention on several political issues concerning the Mediterranean region: the question of Cyprus, complaints by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya against the United States, and strengthening security and co-operation in the region.

The Security Council twice extended the stationing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), by resolutions 534(1983) and 544(1983). In May 1983, when it resumed its thirty-seventh (1982) session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/253, calling for implementation of United Nations resolutions on Cyprus, in addition to demanding immediate withdrawal of all occupation forces from that country. On 15 November, the Turkish Cypriot community issued a declaration purporting to create an independent State in northern Cyprus, naming it the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". Meeting on 18 November, the Council adopted resolution 541(1983), deploring the declaration, considering it as legally invalid and calling for its withdrawal. In December, the Assembly, by decision 38/456, deferred consideration of the Cyprus question to its resumed thirty-eighth (1983) session, to be held in 1984.

At the request of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Council convened in February and in August 1983 to consider complaints by that country of military threats and provocations against it by the United States.

The Assembly, by resolution 38/189 adopted in December, encouraged Mediterranean States to intensify co-operation aimed at reducing tension and strengthening security in that region and urged all other States to co-operate towards that end.

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: questions involving the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. International Court of Justice: continental shelf delimitation between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Malta.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter IX (pp. 267-361)
Middle East

In 1983, the situation in the Middle East continued to occupy the attention of the Security Council, the General Assembly and several other United Nations bodies. Aside from the annual debate in the Assembly on the Middle East situation as a whole, the major aspects considered were the Palestine question, the situation in Lebanon and between other individual Arab States and Israel, the situation in the territories occupied by Israel, and Palestine refugees. The United Nations continued to maintain two major peace-keeping operations in the region financed by special assessments on Member States.

Details on these subjects together with the full texts of the related resolutions or decisions adopted can be found under the relevant subject headings on the following pages. For texts of resolutions and decisions of major organs mentioned but not reproduced in this chapter, refer to INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: Nuclear-weapon-free zones-Middle East; nuclear weapons and Israel. Africa: Israel-South Africa relations. Mediterranean countries: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya-United States dispute. Disasters and emergency relief: Lebanon. Regional economic and social activities: Western Asia. Human rights. Refugees and humanitarian assistance: Lebanon.

Chapter X (pp. 362-387)
Other political questions

INFORMATION, 362, Mass communication, 362, UN public information, 366; RADIATION EFFECTS, 386; ANTARCTICA, 387.

Various aspects of information were considered by the General Assembly and its Committee on Information in 1983. In December, the Assembly made recommendations aimed at building the communications capabilities of developing countries and at improving United Nations public information activities.

Also in December, the Assembly commended the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for its work on the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation and requested that its work continue.

In other action that month, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to prepare a study on Antarctica, because of increasing international interest in the region.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: public information. Africa: South Africa and apartheid-public information. Middle East: Palestine question-public information. Transport and communications: communications. General decolonization questions: public information. Namibia: public information. Other administrative and management questions: proposed UN communication satellite.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter XI (pp. 388-398)
Institutional machinery

UN MEMBERS, 388; SECURITY COUNCIL, 389; GENERAL ASSEMBLY , 391; SECRETARY-GENERAL, 393; CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, 394; OTHER INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS, 398.

During 1983, the membership of the United Nations rose to 158 with the admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis.

In addition to its agenda, the Security Council considered ways of enhancing its role as an instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security, focusing on five aspects: preventing conflicts, promoting negotiations and peaceful settlement procedures, implementing its resolutions and decisions and strengthening its peace-keeping operations, giving effect to Article 43 of the Charter of the United Nations including the role envisaged for the Military Staff Committee, and improving procedures for the Council's efficient functioning.

The General Assembly resumed and concluded its thirty-seventh session in 1983. During its thirty-eighth session, the Assembly considered 141 items of its 146-item agenda and decided to consider the remainder in 1984.

Among the major political activities of the Secretary-General in 1983 was the exercise of his good offices on the questions of Cyprus, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Namibia. His annual report to the Assembly on the Organization's work (p. 3) stressed that institutional machinery should be utilized.

The Assembly acted on co-operation between the United Nations and six intergovernmental organizations.

In other action, the Assembly also set in motion preparatory activities for the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1982.

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: co-operation between OAU and the UN system. Regional economic and social activities: co-operation between the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference and the United Nations. Institutional machinery (economic and social): organization of work of the General Assembly's Second and Third Committees; co-operation between the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation and the United Nations. Intergovernmental organizations and international law: UN institutional machinery; implementation of UN resolutions; rules of procedure of UN conferences. Other legal questions: co-operation between the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and the United Nations. Other administrative and management questions: calendar of meetings.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter I (pp. 399-438)
Development policy and international economic co-operation

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 400, Development and economic co-operation, 400, Economic co-operation among developing countries, 413; ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS AND POLICY, 420; DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, EDUCATION, AD- MINISTRATION AND INFORMATION, 423; RURAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, 428; SPECIAL ECONOMIC AREAS, 428, Developing countries, 429.

The critical world economic situation and the threat it posed to the developing countries continued to be considered in various United Nations bodies during 1983. The need for closer co-operation between developed and developing countries and among developing countries themselves was stressed in several economic reports and during discussions on the subject.

In his annual report on the work of the Organization (p. 3), the Secretary-General, noting the apparent retreat from multilateral economic co-operation, stressed that a major economic imperative was the accelerated development of the developing countries—particularly the least developed—and the eradication of poverty.

The growing interdependence of the world economy was emphasized by the sixth (June/July) session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VI), which held wide-ranging discussions on the economic situation and adopted a statement highlighting the need for multilateral economic co-operation.

With the approach of the mid-point of the Third United Nations Development Decade (the 1980s), preparations began for the 1984 review and appraisal of the implementation of the Decade's International Development Strategy. Work on contributions for submission to the review and appraisal Committee, which held its first meeting in December, was started by UNCTAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the Committee for Development Planning (CDP). In December, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for the review exercise to identify and appraise the real causes for shortfalls encountered in the Strategy's implementation and, if necessary, to adjust the policy measures foreseen in it in order to contribute effectively to the development of developing countries.

Discussion on the launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development, originally scheduled to start in 1980, continued throughout 1983. In December, the Assembly decided to keep the item open after suspension of its 1983 session and to reconvene to consider any agreements that might emerge from informal consultations. Discussions continued throughout the year on various aspects of the proposed new international economic order, including its legal aspects.

Following transmittal by the Economic and Social Council of a draft declaration on a new international human order: moral aspects of development, the Assembly invited Member States to comment on the subject.

Resolutions requesting a study on confidence-building measures in international economic relations and deploring the adoption of economic sanctions against developing countries were adopted for the first time by the Assembly in 1983.

During the year, the question of economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC) was discussed in several United Nations arenas, including UNCTAD VI, the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board and its Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, and CDP. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was the main item discussed at the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and ACC, which agreed that a cross-organizational review should be carried out on the subject. On the question of interregional economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, both the Council and the Assembly agreed that the regional commissions should be provided with resources to meet their responsibilities for their related programmes.

The World Economic Survey 1983, which analysed current trends and policies in the world economy, was the background document for the annual discussion in the Council on international economic and social policy. UNCTAD produced the third in its series of annual reports on trade and development issues, the Trade and Development Report, 1983, which, in addition to analysing the world economic situation, focused on ECDC with particular reference to trade and finance. A further assessment of the economic situation was also carried out by CDP, which made a number of recommendations to promote world economic recovery.

Broad areas of economic and social development were considered in several United Nations forums during the year. The Assembly repeated its invitation to Governments to provide information on experience acquired in applying a unified approach to socio-economic development. After a report was submitted to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the role of the public sector in economic development, the Secretary-General was invited to submit a further report in 1987.

The improvement of various aspects of development planning, education, administration and information continued to be studied, while support for public administration was given through a programme of technical co-operation.

Rural and regional development activities also continued throughout the United Nations system during 1983.

The Organization's continuing concern for countries particularly affected by the world economic crisis was shown in its adoption of resolutions calling for action on behalf of the developing countries in general and the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in particular. The Assembly called for immediate measures in favour of the developing countries to ease their economic problems and to promote development. Implementation of the 1981 Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was considered at UNCTAD VI and by CDP. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported on action taken with the World Bank in organizing and holding country review meetings for individual LDCs. The status of the UNDP Special Measures Fund for LDCs was reported on as was that of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, whose programme covered 41 countries, 36 of which were LDCs. The particular problems of land-locked countries were discussed at UNCTAD VI, which called for action on their behalf. The Assembly also discussed the issue and made a further request for contributions to the United Nations Special Fund

for Land-locked Developing Countries. The problems of island developing countries were also discussed at UNCTAD VI, which urged the international community to provide financial and technical support for them.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: disarmament and development. Operational activities for development. International trade arid finance. Regional economic and social activities: economic and social trends—Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Western Asia; development policy and regional economic co-operation—Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Western Asia. Social and cultural development: social aspects of the International Development Strategy; social aspects of development planning; popular participation in development; family in development; social aspects of rural development. Human rights: right to development; proposed new international economic order and human rights; proposed new international humanitarian order. Women: women in development. Statistics: economic statistics.

Chapter II (pp. 439-489)
Operational activities for development

GENERAL ASPECTS, 439; TECHNICAL, CO-OPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 454, UNDP operational activities, 457, UNDP programme planning, 460, UNDP financing, 461, UNDP administration and staff, 473; OTHER TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION, 474, UN programmes, 474, United Nations Volunteers, 481, Technical co-operation among developing countries, 484; UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, 488.

Total operational assistance for development by the United Nations system amounted to $4.1 billion in 1983. Of this total, technical co-operation expenditures amounted to approximately $255 million, compared to $303 million in 1982.

Total contributions (exclusive of cost-sharing and other similar contributions) from Governments and other sources to development activities of the United Nations system amounted to $6 billion in 1983, as compared with $7.2 billion in 1982. These figures included contributions to the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which also fell in 1983, to $3.6 billion from more than $4.8 billion in 1982.

The General Assembly, by resolution 38/171 of 19 December 1983, urged that United Nations organizations and bodies continue to attach priority to operational activities for development, noting that, although the outcome of the November United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities reflected a positive trend, the overall level of resources remained unsatisfactory.

The share of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in total system-wide grant-financed technical co-operation (i.e., exclusive of World Bank lending operations) was 40 per cent in 1983, as compared with 45 per cent in 1982. Expenditures by UNDP totalled $751 million, almost $120 million lower than forecast. During 1983, there was an $87.2 million surplus of main programme income over expenditure; UNDP's revenue reserve, showing a $5.7 million deficit at the end of 1982, became a surplus of $57.9 million as at 31 December 1983. In June, the UNDP Governing Council adopted measures to improve the Programme's short-and long-term financing, including measures for improving its own work, an action welcomed by the Assembly in December in resolution 38/172; the Assembly also stressed the necessity of significantly increased contributions.

Responsibility for the management and substantive support for the system's technical co-operation activities rested with the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) which executed in 1983 a programme comprising more than 1,400 projects amounting to $112 million, $15 million less than in 1982. This reduction resulted from a decline in resources and led to a streamlining of DTCD operations.

In 1983, the number of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) serving technical co-operation projects in about 90 countries increased to 1,423, with over 80 per cent of recruits from developing countries themselves. The Assembly, in resolution 38/173 of 19 December, reaffirmed that the

programme should continue preparing for the International Youth Year (1985) and its youth-related programmes, and appealed for increased contributions.

The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, in June, made several recommendations aimed at furthering technical co-operation among developing countries. Measures to further the exchange of skilled manpower among developing countries were suggested in a study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

With slightly over $24 million in contributions to the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 1983, the Fund did not reach anticipated levels; however, trust fund and cost-sharing contributions enabled it to approve new commitments totalling $30.2 million, over half of which went to drought-stricken African countries.

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: South Africa and apartheid—aid programmes and inter-agency co-operation. Middle East: aid programmes for Palestinians. Development policy and international economic co-operation: economic co-operation among developing countries. Disasters, economic assistance and emergency relief. International trade and finance: UNCTAD technical co-operation. Development finance. Regional economic and social activities—technical co-operation. Food: food aid. Refugees: refugee assistance. Namibia: aid programmes.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter III (pp. 490-537)
Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 491, Africa 492, Other regions, 514; DISASTERS, 517, Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 517, Co-ordination in the UN system, 521, Disaster relief, 524, Disaster preparedness and prevention, 533; EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE, 534.

The United Nations continued in 1983 to provide special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance to affected countries, notably in Africa.

The Economic and Social Council, at its second session of 1983, heard the United Nations Joint Co-ordinator for Special Economic Assistance Programmes report on the situation in 14 African countries and Tonga, and took note of oral reports by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator on measures to alleviate the effects of disasters, and by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Africa.

In December, the General Assembly adopted a series of resolutions calling for economic assistance to Benin (resolution 38/210), Cape Verde (38/219), the Central African Republic (38/211), Chad (38/214), the Comoros (38/209), Djibouti (38/213), Equatorial Guinea (38/224), the Gambia (38/212), Ghana (38/203), Guinea-Bissau (38/221), Lesotho (38/215), Mozambique (38/208), Sierra Leone (38/205) and Uganda (38/207). In other regions, the Assembly urged such assistance to Democratic Yemen (38/206), Nicaragua (38/223) and Vanuatu (38/218).

The United Nations system, notably the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), continued to respond to emergency situations arising from natural disasters, and the Assembly urged assistance to countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region (resolution 38/225) and East Africa (38/216), which suffered from drought; Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru (38/222), which were victims of floods; Honduras and Nicaragua (38/217), which coped with the effects of floods and drought; and Yemen (38/204), in its recovery following a 1982 earthquake. The Assembly also adopted resolution 38/202 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to respond to natural and other disaster situations.

Emergency humanitarian assistance continued to be provided to displaced persons, as well as Palestinians, in Lebanon, and the Assembly, in resolution 38/220, called for intensified assistance to meet Lebanon's reconstruction and development needs. In other action, the Assembly, by resolution 38/201, dissolved the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund, established in 1974 to help low-income developing countries cope with the economic crisis situation.

Topics related to this chapter. Development policy and international economic co-operation: special economic areas—developing countries. Regional economic and social activities: Asia and the Pacific—typhoons. Food: food aid. Environment: desertification. Children: emergency relief. Refugees and displaced persons: refugee assistance.

Chapter IV (pp. 538-569)
International trade and financial

The major United Nations event concerning international trade and finance for development in 1983 was the sixth (June/July) session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VI), whose central themes, reflected in an end-of-Conference statement- were development and recovery in the world economy and the complementary character of those two processes. Against the background of the world economic crisis, wide-ranging discussions were held on virtually all major concerns in the area of international co-operation for development- including commodities, international trade, protectionism and structural adjustment, monetary and financial questions, the problems of the least-developed, land-locked and island developing countries, the transfer of technology, shipping, economic co-operation among developing countries, and assistance to individual countries and liberation movements. The Conference adopted 32 resolutions and decisions on these and other issues.

In his annual report on the work of the Organization (p. 3), the Secretary-General said that, although UNCTAD VI had provided an important opportunity to counter negative trends in multilateral co-operation, its results were not commensurate with the gravity of the situation in developing countries and the requirements of the world economy in general. The consensus achieved on several issues could, however, constitute a worthwhile step provided there was continuing dialogue and action, in which context the process of negotiation between the developed and developing countries on long-term problems had to be activated at a high political level.

In December, the General Assembly echoed the Secretary-General's views on the results of UNCTAD VI and urged Governments to exercise the necessary political will to reach agreement on the follow-up to the Conference and ensure timely implementation of its results (resolution 38/155).

Following its second annual review of protectionism and structural adjustment, regarded as a key issue for UNCTAD VI, the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board drew attention to new forms of protectionist measures, including discriminatory ones.

UNCTAD VI urged increased contributions to strengthen the commodity-related activities of the International Trade Centre (ITC), which continued to assist developing countries in promoting their exports and facilitating movement of goods in international commerce.

In the area of commodity issues, UNCTAD VI urged early signature and ratification of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, as did the Assembly in December (resolution 38/156). Although the Agreement was open for signature and ratification at Belgrade

during the Conference, it had not received the required number of ratifications by the end of the year for entry into force.

The International Sugar Conference held two sessions in 1983 without reaching agreement. However, the United Nations Conference on Tropical Timber culminated in November in the adoption of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1983. Early resumption of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate an International Arrangement to replace the International Wheat Agreement, 1971, as extended, was urged by UNCTAD VI, the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1983/71) and by the General Assembly (resolution 38/158). In March, the Committee on Manufactures reviewed trends, developments and restrictions to trade in manufactures and semi-manufactures.

Both the Council (decision 1983/174) and the Assembly (resolution 38/147) called for finalization and adoption of a set of draft guidelines on consumer protection.

International financial relations, described as chaotic by the United Nations Committee for Development Planning (CDP), were the subject of several resolutions adopted at UNCTAD VI. The question of external debt of developing countries was of particular concern to CDP, the Trade and Development Board and the Conference. With regard to development assistance, the Conference urged developed countries to increase their official development assistance, and multilateral development institutions were invited to expand programme lending.

Trade-related finance was discussed at the March meeting of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade, at the Trade and Development Board and at UNCTAD' VI. The Conference invited the Board to finalize consideration of a proposed export guarantee facility.

A proposed complementary financing facility for commodity-related shortfalls in export earnings was discussed in the Committee on Commodities and at UNCTAD VI, which invited the UNCTAD Secretary-General to convene an expert group on the subject.

In December, the United Nations Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters finalized a set of guidelines for international co-operation against tax evasion.

Topics related to this chapter. Development policy and international economic co-operation. Transport. Industrial development. Regional economic and social activities: international trade and finance-Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Western Asia. Science and technology: technology transfer. International economic law: international trade law. Economic and social questions

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Chapter V (pp. 570-578)
Transport, communications and tourism

TRANSPORT, 570, Maritime transport, 570, Transport of dangerous goods, 574; COMMUNICATIONS, 576; TOURISM, 577.

In 1983, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued its work on international transport issues. In addition to reviewing the world situation and UNCTAD activities in regard to maritime transport, UNCTAD subsidiary bodies and its secretariat continued work on providing training assistance, drawing up shipping legislation for marine hull and cargo insurance, investigating sea transport of bulk cargoes, proposing measures to prevent maritime fraud and harmonizing regulations on the transport of dangerous goods.

At its sixth session in June/July, UNCTAD outlined future work for the secretariat. It called for completion of drafting work on an international agreement on conditions for registration of ships, aimed at establishing a genuine link between a vessel and its flag, and jurisdiction of a flag State over ships flying its flag. The Preparatory Committee for a 1984 plenipotentiary conference on the subject adopted a draft text with alternative formulations for the conference's consideration.

In July, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1983/7 calling for amended recommendations for regulations concerning the transport of dangerous goods to be submitted to Governments for their comments.

The 1974 Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences entered into force in October 1983; by year's end, 59 countries had become contracting parties. The Code was intended to open up the international shipping trade, organized in a system of liner conferences, to more countries, especially developing ones.

The United Nations marked 1983 as World Communications Year, for which the International Telecommunication Union acted as the lead agency in co-ordinating activities such as conferences, seminars and pilot projects, with special emphasis on stimulating the development of communications infrastructures.

Activities during 1983 to promote tourism included seminars and studies, concentrating on implementation of the 1980 Manila Declaration on World Tourism which provided guidelines for developing tourism, especially in developing countries. In resolution 38/146, the General Assembly urged States to apply the principles of the Declaration when formulating tourism policies and requested the World Tourism Organization to promote tourism along those lines.

Topics related to this chapter. Regional economic and social activities: Africa--Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; Asia and the Pacific-Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific. Natural resources. International economic law.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter VI (pp. 579-604)
Industrial development

PROGRAMME AND FINANCES OF UNIDO, 579, Programme policy, 579, Institutional machinery, 583, Financial questions, 586; INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, 588, Technical co-operation, 588, Industrial co-operation, 592, Industrial development of LDCs, 594, Redeployment of industrial production to developing countries, 595, Industrial financing, 596, Industrial management, 597, Industrial planning, 597, Industrial studies, 597, Industrial technology, 598; DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES, 599, Agro-industries, 599, Chemical industries, 600, Engineering industries, 602, Metallurgical and mineral industries, 603.

In 1983, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) continued to help developing countries raise their share of world industrial production to the target of 25 per cent by the year 2000. This goal was contained in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, adopted in 1975 at the Second General Conference of UNIDO (Lima, Peru). The 1983 UNIDO endeavours were described by its Executive Director in his annual report to the Industrial Development Board, UNIDO's policy-making body.

The 45-nation Board held its seventeenth session at UNIDO headquarters, Vienna, Austria, from 26 April to 13 May 1983.(3) At that session, the Board adopted 17 conclusions on various programme, industrial development and organizational matters; these included technical assistance to the Namibian people (see TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION, Chapter III) and Palestinian people (see POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, Chapter IX, under "Palestine question"), and integration of women in development (see Chapter XIX of this section). In addition, the Board adopted a resolution on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (see Chapter VIII of this section). The Board's Permanent Committee met twice at Vienna, for its nineteenth (25 and 29 April (4) and twentieth (28 November-2 December) (5) sessions.

The work of UNIDO and the Board's report were reviewed by the General Assembly, which adopted in December resolution 38/192 on various programme policies for UNIDO, with continued emphasis on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and preparations for the Fourth (1984) General Conference of UNIDO, for which the Assembly set both place (Vienna) and dates (2-18 August 1984). Revisions made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) to the 1984-1985 UNIDO work programme and their consequent financial implications were noted by the Economic and Social Council in July (resolution 1983/49) and by the Assembly in December (resolution 38/234).

An evaluation study on technical co-operation activities in manufactures financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by UNIDO was completed early in the year. In resolution 1983/49, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to CPC in 1983 and a comprehensive report in 1984 (which would include comments by UNIDO and UNDRO). The Assembly endorsed that request in resolution 38/227 A.

In May, UNIDO met to conclude arrangements for its conversion into a specialized agency. Steps to accelerate the process were set forth in December by Assembly resolution 38/193. In anticipation of the conversion, modifications to the current arrangements for sharing common

services among the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNIDO and other United Nations units headquartered at Vienna were outlined by the Secretary-General and noted by the Assembly in December (resolution 38/234).

As a result of the admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis to the United Nations, the Assembly, by its December resolution 38/194, included that country among the States eligible for Board membership.

Topics related to this chapter. Regional economic and social activities: industrial development-Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America; Western Asia. Energy: industrial uses. Science and technology: technology transfer. Environment: ecosystems-environment and industry. Women: women in development.

Chapter VII (pp. 605-611)
Transnational corporations

DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT, 605; STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING, 607; CENTRE ON TNCs, 607; COMMISSION ON TNCs, 610.

The Commission on Transnational Corporations held a special session during March and May 1983 to complete formulation of a code of conduct on transnational corporations (TNCS); significant progress was achieved although not completion. The session's report, containing the agreed provisions and an outline of outstanding issues, was transmitted by the Economic and Social Council (decision 1983/183) in July to the General Assembly. By decision 38/428 of December, the Assembly decided to reconvene the special session in 1984 to continue work on the code.

The Commission's Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting held its first session during February/March 1983. The Commission held its ninth regular session in New York, from 20 to 30 June, and reviewed the work of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the main Secretariat unit for TNC-related matters.

In 1983, the Council took several other actions relating to TNCS. Decision 1983/104 and resolution 1983/75 concerned further preparations for the Commission's 1985 public hearings on TNC activities in South Africa and Namibia, while resolution 1983/74 also dealt with those activities and TNC collaboration with the racist régime in South Africa (see POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, Chapter V).

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: transnational corporations. International trade and finance: restrictive business practices and commodity trade.

Chapter VIII (pp. 612-656)
Regional economic and social activities

At a time when the global economic situation made it more urgent to increase economic and technical co-operation among themselves, increased efforts were made by all the regional commissions in 1983 to promote interregional co-operation.

In 1983, four of the five regional commissions held their regular intergovernmental sessions at their respective headquarters: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (27 April-3 May); the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at Bangkok, Thailand (19-29 April); the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at Geneva, Switzerland (12-23 April) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) at Baghdad, Iraq (7-11 May). The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) did not meet in regular session during the year.

Among issues of concern to the regional commissions considered by the General Assembly in 1983 were the food and agriculture situation in Africa (resolutions 38/159, 38/198), implementation of the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action for economic development of Africa (38/199), Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1978-1988) (38/150), Zaire's transport and transit problems (38/143), co-operation between the United Nations system and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (38/160) and administrative questions involving restructuring and decentralization (decision 38/432).

Adequacy of the conference facilities at ECA and ESCAP headquarters was also discussed (sections XXIII and VII of resolution 38/234, respectively), as well as the funding arrangements for the Regional Commissions Liaison Office in New York (section X of resolution 38/234).

The Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1983, took action on: the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (resolution 1983/62), Zaire's transit problems (1983/64), special measures for the social and economic development of Africa in the 1980s (1983/65), the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1983/67), the Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific (1983/69), and the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1980-1989) (1983/70). The Council decided that the provision of summary records should remain discontinued for a number of its subsidiary bodies, among them ECA, ESCAP, ECE and ECLA ((decision 1983/184)) (see Chapter XXIV of this section).

Summaries of the annual survey of current economic conditions in each region, prepared by commission secretariats, were examined and taken note of by the Council in July during its discussion of the world economic situation. . The Council further took note of the report on the meetings of the commissions' executive secretaries on promoting interregional co-operation (decision 1983/180), as well as the Addis Ababa declaration on the occasion of the silver jubilee anniversary celebration of ECA (resolution 1983/63). The Assembly also took note of that declaration (decision 38/434).

Topics related to this chapter. Development and international economic and social policy: economic and social trends and policy. Development assistance. Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief. Food.

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Chapter IX (pp. 657-672)
Natural resources and cartography

GENERAL ASPECTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES, 657;. MINERAL RESOURCES, 662; WATER AND MARINE RESOURCES, 666; CARTOGRAPHY, 670.

During 1983, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE) continued its financing activities in developing countries. The Committee on Natural Resources held its eighth session in New York from 8 to 17 June; on the basis of its recommendations, the Economic and Social Council in July adopted resolutions on: developing non-metallic raw materials (1983/52); standardizing terminology for mineral resources (1983/53); applying computer technology in mineral exploration (1983/54); permanent sovereignty over natural resources (1983/56); water resources development (1983/57); utilizing subsurface space (1983/58); co-ordinating United Nations programmes on natural resources (1983/59); and UNRFNRE (1983/55). A resolution on developing the energy resources of developing countries was also adopted (see Chapter X of this section).

The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination again took up the matter of programme co-ordination in mineral resources.

Reformulations of a new major programme in marine affairs, for inclusion in the United Nations medium-term plan for 1984-1989, were adopted by the General Assembly.

The Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in January at Bangkok, Thailand.

Topics related to this chapter. Law of the sea: sea-bed mining. Middle East: permanent sovereignty over natural resources in the occupied territories. Operational activities for development: technical co-operation. Regional economic and social activities. Energy. Namibia.

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Chapter X (pp. 673-688)
Energy resources

Throughout 1983, the main thrust of United Nations energy-related activities was aimed at searching for alternatives, nuclear as well as non-nuclear, to reduce world-wide dependence on depletable supplies of petroleum and gas, with particular emphasis on the development of the indigenous energy resources of developing countries. The efforts of various United Nations entities in this sphere, co-ordinated by the inter-agency Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), were geared towards implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, endorsed by the General Assembly in 1981. Recommendations on specific ways of reaching this goal were worked out at the first session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in April 1983 and endorsed in December by the Assembly in resolution 38/169. Geothermal energy was regarded as a particularly promising source, with the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration carrying out extensive work on its research and development.

With regard to the development of energy resources of the developing countries, an effort to assess the prospects of conventional commercial energy sources in energy-deficient countries was undertaken in an analysis by the Secretary-General, while a study of the technological aspects of energy resources development was made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Upon reviewing their reports in December, the Assembly requested, by resolution 38/151, a comprehensive report on this issue and urged greater international support for the accelerated exploration and development of the energy resources of developing countries. Meanwhile, additional funds in support of energy programmes in developing countries were mobilized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with total expenditures of $3.1 million under its Energy Account in 1983, representing a substantial increase over the previous year. In view of industry's role as the major single market for energy, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) pursued an intensive technical co-operation and research and development programme, with particular emphasis on such sources as hydropower and biomass energy, and the questions of industrial energy management and provision of capital goods for the energy sector. Issues related to technology transfer figured prominently in the activities of UNCTAD.

Concerning nuclear energy, the General Assembly considered in November the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the chief United Nations body carrying out technical work related to nuclear power, and urged, in resolution 38/8, all States to co-operate in promoting the use of nuclear energy and the application of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. In 1983, preparations continued for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The Assembly

endorsed, in December by resolution 38/60, the conclusions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and decided to hold it in 1986, with the venue and actual dates to be determined at the 1984 Assembly session.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: nuclear weapons. Peaceful uses of outer space. Regional economic and social activities: energy resources-Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America. Statistics: energy statistics.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XI (pp. 689-704)
Food

In a year plagued by the continuing uncertainty of the world food economy and chronic hunger and malnutrition in many developing countries, various United Nations bodies stepped up their food-related activities in three main directions: providing emergency aid, rendering development assistance and working to identify priorities and devise policies for solving major food problems in different parts of the world.

The World Food Council (WFC) proposed a number of national and international measures to combat hunger, improve agricultural production, stocking and distribution in developing countries, and upgrade world trade and market stability. These recommendations were welcomed in resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1983/71) and the General Assembly (resolution 38/158), which called for urgent action by the international community to improve the world food situation.

While WFC formulated strategies for solving food problems, the World Food Programme (WFP) concentrated on supplying food to those suffering from natural and man-made disasters, and providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries to achieve their national food objectives. Entering its twentieth year of existence, WFP reached its highest level of development and emergency commitments in 1983, with shipments of food exceeding 1.5 million metric tons.

The General Assembly, in December 1983, established a new $1.35 billion pledging target for the Programme's regular resources for the 1985-1986 biennium (resolution 38/176). It acted on the recommendations of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA), the governing body of WFP, submitted through the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1983/73). The problem of improving co-ordination of United Nations activities with regard to food and agriculture was addressed by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1983/77.

Topics related to this chapter. Regional economic and social activities: Africa-food and agriculture. Health and human resources-nutrition. Children-nutrition. Human rights-right to food.

Chapter XII (pp. 705-720)
Science and technology

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION, 706, General aspects, 06, Scientific and technological information, 706, Scientific research and development, 707; FINANCING, 709, UN Financing system, 709; INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, 712, National focal points, 712, Intergovernmental Committee on science and technology, 713, Advisory Committee on science and technology, 714, Centre for science and technology, 714, Proposed regional advisory bodies, 715, Co-ordination in the system, 715; TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, 716, Draft code of conduct, 718; BRAIN DRAIN, 719.

With the 1979 Vienna Programme of Action providing the framework for restructuring international scientific and technological relations, various United Nations entities continued their efforts to strengthen the related capacities of developing countries in 1983 by mobilizing financial resources, enhancing institutional arrangements and improving the balance of technology transfer.

To appraise progress in implementing the Vienna Programme and map ways of strengthening developing countries' endogenous capacities, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (DIEC), responsible for overall co-ordination in science and technology within the United Nations system, prepared a first biennial review and a report on the guidelines for future projects. Several ad hoc panels of specialists were held to provide expert advice on specific problems such as human resources development, the role of regional organizations, and linkages between research and production.

The United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD) played a central role in financing various activities. Despite severe resource constraints, the System contributed to the development of projects financed by donors through trust fund arrangements, increased its portfolio of bankable projects and was instrumental in launching several projects on science and technology policy, planning and information. as well as several conferences promoting international scientific and technological co-operation. At the end of the year, total commitments stood at $44.2 million and its overall income at $45.1 million. In December, the General Assembly decided to convene another pledging conference for UNFSSTD in 1984 and invited Governments to indicate the amounts of their contributions at the earliest possible time (resolution 38/157).

Directing and policy-making functions were carried out by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its Advisory Committee with assistance from the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development. The Intergovernmental Committee held its special session in April/May 1983 to assess the UNFSSTD resource and contribution situation and consider the financing plan and the voting pattern for UNFSSTD's Executive Board. At its regular fifth session in June, it covered a broad range of matters related to institutional arrangements, including the effectiveness of its own work, the role of regional advisory bodies, participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOS), as well as the activities of the Advisory Committee and the Centre for science and technology.

Providing substantive support to the Intergovernmental Committee and co-ordinating United Nations activities at the secretariat level, the Centre proceeded with establishing an advance

technology alert system (ATAS), analysed levels of attainment of scientific and technological development and organized specialist panels. On the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Committee, the Assembly noted the revised estimates for a number of activities undertaken by the Centre in addition to the output indicated in the 1984-1985 programme budget (resolution 38/234). The Assembly also recommended that the Committee consider adopting, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of meetings, in conformity with the work of the Assembly's Second Committee (decision 38/429). The question of inter-agency co-operation was considered by the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development, which held its fourth session at Geneva in January.

Regulation and promotion of the flow of technology from industrialized to developing countries was another important area of United Nations activities in 1983. At its sixth session, the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD VI) (see Chapter IV of this section), reiterated the importance of an adequate legal and institutional framework for the transfer, acquisition and development of technology. The United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology at its October/November session made progress in formulating the code but left a number of issues unresolved, prompting the Assembly to decide on convening another conference in 1985 to complete the negotiations (resolution 38/153). The Assembly also addressed the question of the reverse transfer of technology-or brain drain-urging improved co-ordination of United Nations efforts and full participation by all Member States (resolution 38/154).

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: peaceful uses of science and technology. Operational activities for development: technical cooperation among developing countries. Industrial development: industrial technology. Human rights: human rights and science and technology. Women: science and technology and women.

Chapter XIII (pp. 721-742)
Social and cultural development

Social conditions and policy, 721, Social integration and welfare, 727, Institutional machinery, 735; CRIME, 737; CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 740.

The Commission for Social Development held its twenty-eighth session at Vienna, Austria from 7 to 16 February 1983, at which it recommended to the Economic and Social Council adoption of 16 resolutions and three decisions. Another four decisions adopted by the Commission were brought to the Council's attention.

Following the Commission's recommendations, the Council adopted resolutions on the world social situation (1983/8); economic and social development policies (1983/11); social aspects of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (1983/9); the adverse effects of the arms race on social development (1983118); social welfare policies (1983/22); social integration through popular participation (1983/13); income distribution (1983/12); social aspects of rural development (1983/10); the role of the family in development (1983/23); co-operatives (1983/15); information exchange on the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (1983/20); and reporting procedures of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (1983/25).

Both the Council and the General Assembly—in resolutions 1983/31 and 38/24, respectively-dealt with the issue of popular participation and human rights.

Following consideration of a report of the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, the Assembly, in resolution 38/25, reaffirmed the right of every State to choose its economic and social system, and requested the Secretary-General to make arrangements for an interregional seminar.

Preparations were made for the Seventh (1985) United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; five regional preparatory meetings were held in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, Africa and Western Asia. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control continued to function as the preparatory committee for the Congress. Taking up a March 1982 proposal by the Committee, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1983/25, decided that from now on the Committee should report directly to the Council.

The work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin, showed further progress. The Assembly, in resolution 38/34, reaffirmed that the restitution to a country of its cultural property contributed to international co-operation and preservation of cultural values. The Assembly invited States to become parties to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

Topics related to this chapter. Disarmament: disarmament and development. Development policy: International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade; economic and social trends and policy; rural development. Health: disabled persons. Human rights: migrant workers; rights of detained persons; right to development; right to education and employment.

Chapter XIV (pp. 743-755)
Population

UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES, 743; PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1984 CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, 749; OTHER POPULATION ACTIVITIES, 753.

In 1983, the United Nations system continued efforts to meet needs arising from population-related problems, with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the largest source of multilateral assistance, at the forefront. Highlighting those efforts was the presentation of the first United Nations Population Award for outstanding contribution to the awareness of population questions and to their solutions. A system-wide review of population activities was undertaken for the first time. Taking note of the review in July by resolution 1983/76, the Economic and Social Council urged enhanced co-ordination of population programmes.

Preparations for the International Conference on Population (1984) were advanced by four expert group meetings on topics for the Conference. Council resolution 1983/6, adopted in May, fixed the dates and place of the Conference, and specified the categories of participants to be invited and other pre-Conference arrangements to be made. Besides endorsing the Council decisions in December by resolution 38/148, the General Assembly also approved the budgetary resources for the Conference.

Topics related to this chapter. Regional economic and social activities-population: Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America. Statistics: population and housing censuses.

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Chapter XV (pp. 756-767)
Health and human resources

During 1983, many diseases continued to be aggravated in both developed and developing countries by environmental pollution. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) worked with other United Nations bodies in preparing publications on environmental factors influencing human health.

As part of United Nations activities during the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons (1983-1992), the General Assembly, by resolution 38/28 adopted in November, decided to continue the Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP).

In May, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1983/19, called for implementation of the 1982 World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

Strategies to reduce nutrition-related deaths were considered by the Sub-Committee on Nutrition and the Advisory Group on Nutrition of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC).

Despite financial constraints, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) began a new programme of training for economic and social development. By resolution 38/177 adopted in December, the Assembly agreed to advance $886,000 to UNITAR to cover its 1983 deficit.

The United Nations University (UNU) established its first research and training centre, the World Institute for Development Economics Research at Helsinki, Finland; the Assembly in December appealed for urgent contributions to the UNU Endowment Fund (resolution 38/178).

Topics related to this chapter. Environment: protection against harmful products. Children, youth and aging persons.

Chapter XVI (pp. 768-789)
Environment

In 1983, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) held its eleventh session, and adopted 12 decisions on various environmental questions. The Executive Director of UNEP reported on the Programme's activities for the year in his annual report to the Council.

Forty-four new projects were approved by the Environment Fund in 1983; 37 projects were concluded. During the year, the Fund disbursed $22 million for programme activities; government contributions totalled $28 million.

The Council decided to conduct a detailed assessment of the implementation of the 1977 Plan of Action to Combat Desertification at its 1984 session, while the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) continued to mobilize resources for anti-desertification projects. By resolution 38/164, the General Assembly asked the Governing Councils of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP to continue to provide support for UNSO, which was responsible for implementing the Plan. By resolution 38/163, the Assembly requested Member States that had not yet provided their comments on a plan to establish an international corporation to finance non-commercial desertification measures to do so as soon as possible.

A number of other resolutions and decisions on environmental questions were adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly. The Assembly, in resolution 38/161, approved the UNEP Governing Council's decision to establish an intergovernmental committee to assist it in preparing an environmental perspective to the year 2000 and beyond, and requested the Secretary-General to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of a special commission to assist them. In resolution 38/162, it requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to urge States to conduct bilateral consultations and reach an agreement to solve the problems of material remnants of war.

The Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) of Earthwatch, the assessment arm of the environment programme, monitored such things as renewable natural resources, climate, health, the long-range transport of pollutants, and oceans.

Among other UNEP activities were a meeting of its Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts for the Elaboration of a Global Framework Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer; implementation of plans to combat desertification, including deforestation control, range

management and soil protection; integrated approaches to environment and development and environmental management; and support measures such as environmental education, training and information.

By resolution 38/149 on protection against products harmful to health and the environment, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make available and regularly update the consolidated list of products whose consumption and/or sale had been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted, or not approved by Governments. It took note in decision 38/442 of a report of the UNEP Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

In addition, the Assembly, in resolution 38/165, took note of the UNEP Governing Council report on its 1983 session and the decisions contained therein; endorsed a decision that there should be no Council session in 1986 and that in 1987 the Council would decide finally on the periodicity of its sessions; and decided to expand the mandate of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to include information exchange on anti-desertification policies and programmes.

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: co-operation with the Organization of African Unity. Asia: Iran-Iraq armed conflict. Middle East: Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal project. Regional economic and social activities-environment. Natural resources: water resources. Energy resources: nuclear energy. Health and human resources: health. Human settlements.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XVII (pp. 790-800)
Human settlements

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), also known as Habitat, continued to make progress in its work programme during 1983, completing 61 technical co-operation projects and beginning 69 new ones. The Centre also made plans for the observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987) (IYSH).

The Commission on Human Settlements, which performs the functions of the governing body of UNCHS, held its sixth session at Helsinki, Finland, from 25 April to 6 May 1983. Items on its agenda included UNCHS activities, its work programme and proposed budget for 1984-1985, land for human settlements, and IYSH. The Commission adopted 14 resolutions and six decisions based on recommendations of two committees of the whole. Two of the resolutions-on human settlements in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories and the International Year-required action by the General Assembly.

As recommended by the Commission, the Assembly, in resolution 38/168, endorsed a programme of immediate international action for the International Year. Human settlements were the subject of three other resolutions adopted by the Assembly in December. By resolution 38/167 A, the Assembly reaffirmed its conviction that human settlements activities could play a leading role in stimulating development and in enhancing the quality of life of the poor and the disadvantaged. By resolution 38/167 B, the Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report summarizing an October decision of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (CC) concerning co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system.

Topics related to this chapter. Middle East: territories occupied by Israel-settlements policy, living conditions of Palestinians. Development and international economic and social policy: International Development Strategy. Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief: disaster preparedness and prevention. Regional economic and social activities. Environment. Refugees.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XVIII (pp. 801-906)
Human rights

In 1983, the United Nations continued to take action against racism, racial discrimination, apartheid and other forms of discrimination, to investigate situations involving violations of human rights in several parts of the world, to develop international standards, and to pursue other means of promoting and protecting fundamental rights and freedoms. The Secretary-General stated in his annual report on the Organization's work (p. 3) that he believed it his responsibility to consider ways of dealing with specific cases involving human rights issues. To that end, he had contacted Governments and was determined to persist in his efforts.

Highlighting the year's activities was the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which convened in August and adopted a Declaration and a Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Programme was approved by the General Assembly in November, when it proclaimed the Second Decade, to begin on 10 December, following the close of the first Decade.

The year saw a rise in the number of parties to several human rights instruments-the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to 122; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, each to 77; and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to 80. Ratification of or adherence to those instruments was again called for in several Assembly resolutions.

The year also marked the commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose significance was stressed by the Assembly in December

Work continued on the elaboration of separate instruments to protect the rights of the child, persons detained or imprisoned, migrant workers, minorities and non-citizens, and against torture and other inhuman treatment. The drafting of guidelines and guarantees for the protection of persons on grounds of mental ill-health or disorder was set in motion. An expert group was reconvened to draft a declaration on the right to development, a right reaffirmed as an inalienable human right by the Assembly in December.

Working groups set up by the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities reviewed developments on detention, on involuntary disappearances, and on slavery and all manner of traffic in persons. A working group on the encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments continued its country-by-country examination.

The right of peoples to self-determination was reaffirmed by the Assembly in November, as it was by the Commission-for Palestinians and for the peoples of Afghanistan, East Timor, Kampuchea, South Africa and Namibia, and Western Sahara-and by the Sub-Commission for the people of Nicaragua.

Alleged violations of human rights on a large scale in several countries continued to be examined, including in Chile, Cyprus, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iran, Poland, South Africa and Namibia, as well as in the territories occupied by Israel. Besides reporting to the Commission on these alleged large-scale violations, the Secretary-General also reported to the Assembly on the question of human rights and mass exoduses. A Special Rapporteur was appointed by the Sub-Commission to update a study on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

Establishment of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was again discussed by the Commission and its Sub-Commission.

The Commission adopted 54 resolutions and 13 decisions at its thirty-ninth session, held at Geneva from 31 January to 11 March. Its Sub-Commission held its thirty-sixth session, also at Geneva, from 15 August to 9 September, adopting 40 resolutions and 12 decisions.(2) The Economic and Social Council reviewed the Commission's work in May, acting on it and other human rights questions in 12 resolutions and 28 decisions. The Assembly adopted 33 resolutions on various human rights questions between October and December.

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: South Africa and apartheid. Americas: Central America situation. Asia and the Pacific: Kampuchea situation; Afghanistan situation; Iran-Iraq armed conflict. Mediterranean: Cyprus question. Middle East: Middle East situation; territories occupied by Israel. Social and cultural development. Health and human resources. Women. Namibia. Other colonial Territories.

Chapter XIX (pp. 907-924)
Women

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, 907, Decade for Women (1976-1985), 907, 1979 Convention on Discrimination against Women, 913, UN Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), 915; STATUS OF WOMEN , 917; WOMEN AND SOCIETY, 920; ORGANIZATIONAL 'QUESTIONS, 923.

In 1983, Governments and the United Nations system worked for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and addressed issues concerned with preparations for the 1985 Conference to review the Decade. The Commission on the Status of Women, meeting as the preparatory body for the Conference, made recommendations on the preparations which were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in May (decision 1983/132) and the General Assembly in December (resolution 38/108).

The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women continued its work to augment the flow of resources to rural and poor urban women. During 1983, the Fund spent almost $5 million on projects, the majority to expand employment of women in new income-generating activities to stimulate self-reliance in rural communities and urban slums.

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) completed the first phase of a programme to improve statistics on the situation of women and co-operated with other United Nations bodies to support related programmes.

The need for greater participation of women in development was further recognized throughout the United Nations system and the Commission cited the problems faced by rural women as deserving particular attention.

After considering a synthesis of studies on traffic in persons and prostitution, the Economic and Social Council recommended in May that States draw up policies to prevent prostitution (resolution 1983/30); in December, the General Assembly urged States to take humane measures, including legislation, to that end (resolution 38/107).

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered initial reports of States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and approved general guidelines on the form and contents of such reports. In May, the Council welcomed the beginning of the work of the Committee (resolution 1983/1), as did the Assembly in December (resolution 38/109).

Following a review by the Commission on Human Rights, the Council in May reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider confidential and non-confidential communications regarding the status of women (resolution 1983/27).

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: women and children under apartheid.

Chapter XX (pp. 925-948)
Children, youth and aging persons

As in previous years, 1983 United Nations programmes for children were primarily carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which helped almost 1.3 billion children through programmes in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean area. Support was provided for water supply and sanitation, primary health care, education, food and nutrition, social services and emergency relief. UNICEF continued to promote simple, inexpensive techniques to improve children's health and reduce child mortality; in comparison to those techniques, providing food supplements, promoting family spacing and extending education were either more costly or more difficult. The General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of UNICEF's basic-services approach for children. It called for comments by States on a draft declaration relating to children's protection and welfare, especially foster placement and adoption.

Activities during the year relating to youth— persons aged between 15 and 24 years—focused on preparations for International Youth Year (1985) and on strengthening communication between youth and the United Nations. The Assembly and the Economic and Social Council called for further preparations for the Year, while the Assembly also called for promoting the human rights of youth.

Following the Assembly's endorsement in 1982 of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging—concerning people over 60 years of age— both the Assembly and the Council in 1983 followed up on its implementation.

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: women and children under apartheid; Health and human resources. Human Rights: rights of the child; youth and human rights.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XXI (pp. 949-967)
Refugees and displaces persons

PROGRAMME AND FINANCES OF UNHCR, 949, Programme policy, 949, Financial and administrative questions, 951; ACTIVITIES FOR REFUGEES, 953, Assistance, 953, Refugee protection, 965; INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT NEW REFUGEE FLOWS, 966.

In 1983, with some large-scale refugee situations showing relative stability, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to promote durable solutions and provide care and maintenance to refugees. Despite the absence of large new refugee influxes, however, more than $5 million was obligated from the Emergency Fund on 12 occasions.

Major assistance programmes continued, notably in Pakistan, which remained host to the world's largest refugee population; the Horn of Africa, where programmes benefited returnees as well as refugees; South-East Asia, which saw a decrease of over 37,000 in camp populations during 1983; and Central America and Mexico, where emergency assistance was coupled with local integration initiatives. New programmes in 1983 included aid to Afghan refugees in Iran; repatriations to Argentina and Chile; and emergency relief for Angolans in Zaire, Mozambicans in Zimbabwe and Sudanese in Ethiopia.

As in previous years, assistance to Palestine refugees was provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The High Commissioner told the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme, at its thirty-fourth session (Geneva, 10-20 October), that there were currently some 10 million refugees, as against 1.5 million when UNHCR started its activities in 1951.

In his annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization (p. 3), the Secretary-General stressed that the refugee problem could be resolved only with a settlement of the root political causes; the means available to the United Nations to help alleviate the problem were grossly inadequate.

In December, the Assembly called on all States to promote durable solutions and to contribute generously to the High Commissioner's humanitarian programmes in order to assist refugees, displaced persons and returnees in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing (resolution 38/121).

The Assembly approved the arrangements for the Second (1984) International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and appealed to the international community to make it a success (38/120). It also called for assistance to refugees in Djibouti (38/89), Somalia (38/88) and the Sudan (38/90) as well as to displaced persons in Ethiopia (38/91) and student refugees in southern Africa (38/95).

The Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees met for the first time in 1983, and the Assembly asked it to continue working towards developing recommendations to that end (38/84).

The Nansen Medal for the year—awarded since 1955 in honour of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—went to President Julius Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania in recognition of his personal contribution and that of his country to the cause of refugees. The President announced that the $50,000 prize accompanying the award would be used to build schools for refugee children in his country.

Topics related to this chapter. Middle East: Palestine refugees. Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XXII (pp. 968-978)
Drugs of abuse

In 1983, drug abuse—with its health, social and economic consequences—continued to cause concern in many parts of the world. While international controls on psychotropic substances were beginning to work more effectively, there was increasing availability of narcotic raw materials, and multiple use of drugs and the dangerous means of taking them augmented the health hazards.

In May, the Economic and Social Council— acting on the recommendations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which held its thirtieth session at Vienna, Austria, from 7 to 16 February— transmitted to the General Assembly activities proposed for the third and fourth years (1984-1985) of the five-year programme of action (1982-1986) adopted in the context of the 1981 International Drug Abuse Control Strategy (decision 1983/117). It also urged Governments of opiate-producing/consuming countries to dispose of excess stocks (resolution 1983/3).

Further, the Council called for improved international co-operation in the maritime interdiction of illicit drug traffic (resolution 1983/4), recommended that the Commission replace the current task force on the 1981 Strategy (resolution 1983/2), and enlarged the Commission's membership to 40, effective in 1984 (resolution 1983/5). It approved the Commission's recommendation that it would not be appropriate to proclaim an international year against drug abuse (decision 1983/116).

In December, the General Assembly, by resolution 38/93, called for improved co-ordination and co-operation against the illegal production, traffic and abuse of drugs. It outlined, in resolution 38/98, a strategy and policies for drug control and approved the programme of action for 1984-1985, and delineated, in resolution 38/122, an international campaign against traffic in drugs.

The International Narcotics Control Board, composed of 13 members serving in their personal capacities, held two sessions at Vienna—16 to 27 May (thirty-third session) and 4 to 21 October (thirty-fourth session)—at which it discussed drug abuse, drug supply and demand, reduction of illicit demand for psychotropic substances and the international drug control system; in addition, its 1983 report analysed the world situation by region and country.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XXIII (pp. 979-983)
Statistics

In 1983, the Statistical Commission (twenty-second session, New York, 7-16 March) reviewed the developments, since it last met in 1981, in various fields of economic, social and demographic statistics.

The Statistical Office of the United Nations continued to collect and publish a wide range of statistical data, including those on international trade, industry, transport, energy, national accounts and population.

The Economic and Social Council, in decision 1983/119, authorized the Commission to hold its twenty-third session in 1985.

Chapter XXIV (pp. 984-1010)
Institutional arrangements

CO-ORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM, 984; ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, 990, Proposed organizational change, 990, Co-operation with other organizations, 991; ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, 1007, Work organization of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, 1007, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, 1008.

In 1983, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) continued their efforts to harmonize the programme activities of the organizations of the United Nations system. Highlights of those efforts included a review of a cross-organizational programme analysis in marine affairs, an evaluation of the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in manufactures, and a review of the programme aspects of the proposed United Nations programme budget for 1984-1985. Reviews of the organizations' medium-term plans in selected sectors—food and agriculture, and population— were begun in 1983. Joint Meetings of ACC and CPC centred on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. Ways of improving the functioning of the Meetings were also pursued.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Economic and Social Council granted consultative status to 40 additional NGOs. A report on prospects for co-operation between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, an intergovernmental organization, was noted by the Council and the General Assembly.

Consultations continued on restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Aspects discussed concerned the Council's revitalization, including enlarging its membership, rationalizing its calendar of meetings, and limiting documentation; restructuring issues relating to the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) of the United Nations Secretariat, on which the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) made recommendations; and rationalizing the work of the Assembly's Second (Economic and Financial) Committee and Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, on which the Council and the Assembly made a series of recommendations.

Topics related to this chapter. Regional economic and social activities: Africa—restructuring of ECA. United Nations programmes: administrative and budgetary co-ordination.

Chapter I (pp. 1011-1032)
General questions relating to colonial countries

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1960 DECLARATION ON COLONIAL COUNTRIES, 1012; OTHER GENERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING NSGTs, 1030.

During the year, the General Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Committee on colonial countries) continued to consider the implementation by international organizations of the Assembly's 1960 Declaration and foreign interests impeding its implementation, military bases in Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs), dissemination of information on decolonization, and reports on the Territories supplied by their administering Powers and by visiting missions of the Committee.

In addition to the general question of decolonization, the Committee examined situations in the following individual Territories: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (see next chapter), Namibia (see Chapter III of this section), Falkland Islands (Malvinas), East Timor, Western Sahara, American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Cayman Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, St. Kins-Nevis, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands (see Chapter IV of this section).

The 25-member Committee held two sessions in 1983 at United Nations Headquarters—on 18 May and from 12 to 31 August—and also held an extra-sessional meeting from 1 September to 13 October. The Committee's subsidiary bodies, the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance and the Sub-Committee on Small Territories, met between 20 May and 8 September and between 20 May and 13 October, respectively, and made a number of recommendations for action.

In July, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1983/42 reaffirming the extension of moral and material assistance to the people of Namibia and other colonial territories and their national liberation movements by the United Nations system, and deploring the collaboration of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the Government of South Africa.

Acting on the basis of the Committee's recommendations, the General Assembly took action in December on general aspects of colonial countries. By resolution 38/54, it called for the implementation of the 1960 Declaration, approved the recommendations of the Committee in that regard, and requested it to continue its efforts by taking certain measures. States, in particular the administering Powers, and United Nations bodies were urged to give effect to the Committee's recommendations for implementing the Declaration. The Assembly, by resolution 38/51, called for assistance by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in order to achieve implementation. The Economic and Social Council made a similar request in July by resolution 1983/42. In resolution 38/50, the Assembly condemned activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the Declaration's implementation, as well as the policies of Governments that continued to collaborate with those foreign interests

exploiting the resources of the Territories, and called on States to take measures in respect of their nationals and corporations under their jurisdiction operating in colonial Territories which were detrimental to the inhabitants' interests. The Assembly, by decision 38/419, condemned military activities in colonial Territories which denied the peoples concerned their right to self-determination and independence and which were detrimental to their interests.

By resolution 38/55 on the dissemination of information on decolonization, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take measures through the media at his disposal to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in decolonization. Resolution 38/53 included an invitation to States to make offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of NSGTs. In resolution 38/49, the Assembly requested the administering Powers to transmit information as prescribed in Article 73 e of the United Nations Charter as well as information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned.

Topics related to this chapter. Africa: South Africa and apartheid. Namibia. Other colonial territories.

Chapter II (pp. 1033-1042)
International Trusteeship System

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 1033; OTHER ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM, 1042.

The Trusteeship Council continued during 1983 to supervise, on behalf of the Security Council, the one Trust Territory remaining under the International Trusteeship System—the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, a strategic territory administered by the United States.

The Council considered the annual report submitted by the Administering Authority, heard 13 petitioners, and examined 83 written petitions and 29 communications concerning the Territory. After considering the report of a 1982 Visiting Mission sent by the Council to the Trust Territory, the Council invited the Administering Authority to take into account the Mission's recommendations and conclusions as well as comments by the Council members (resolution 2175(L)). It also took note of the report of a February 1983 Visiting Mission to observe a plebiscite in Palau (resolution 2176(L)). Two other visiting missions were dispatched in June and August to observe plebiscites in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Following a general debate on conditions in the Territory, the Council adopted a report to the Security Council containing conclusions and recommendations.

The Trusteeship Council held its fiftieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 May to 10 June and resumed the session on 28 November. Of the Council's five members (China, France, USSR, United Kingdom, United States), China did not participate in the session.

Chapter III (pp. 1044-1082)
Namibia

NAMIBIA QUESTION, 1045; INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, 1076.

United Nations efforts to achieve independence for Namibia—the largest Territory remaining under colonial rule—continued throughout 1983.

The Security Council convened twice at the request of the African countries and the Non-Aligned Movement to consider the question of Namibia. At each series of meetings, it considered a report by the Secretary-General on implementation of the plan for Namibia's independence approved by the Council in 1978. In May 1983, the Secretary-General reported that despite progress in certain areas, issues outside the scope of the United Nations plan were being raised. South Africa had agreed to co-operate, provided that Cuban troops were withdrawn from Angola. After the first set of meetings, the Council, in resolution 532(1983) of 31 May, mandated the Secretary-General to consult with the parties to the proposed cease-fire and requested him to report on the results.

Having visited the front-line States in February and South Africa, Namibia and Angola in August, the Secretary-General stated that further progress had been made on the outstanding questions, but South Africa had not changed its position on linking the two issues, which made it impossible to launch the independence plan. After considering the Secretary-General's report, the Council, in resolution 539(1983) of 28 October, rejected South Africa's linking Namibia's independence to extraneous issues, called on South Africa to decide on the electoral system it preferred for a constituent assembly in an independent Namibia, and requested the Secretary-General to report on progress in implementing the plan for Namibia's independence before the end of the year. In the event of continued obstruction by South Africa, the Council decided to consider the adoption of appropriate measures under the United Nations Charter.

Reporting to the Council in December, the Secretary-General noted that South Africa had not changed its position, nor had it indicated its choice for an electoral system.

At its regular 1983 session, the General Assembly considered the question of Namibia and adopted five resolutions on the subject, including one (resolution 38/36 B) requesting the Security Council to implement the plan for Namibia's independence and urging it to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa. Resolution 38/36 A dealt with the situation in Namibia resulting from South Africa's illegal occupation. By that text, the Assembly called for action by Member States, the Security Council, other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, and the United Nations Secretariat to counteract the occupation. The Assembly outlined the work programme of the United Nations Council for Namibia in resolution 38/35 C and requested the Secretariat and the Council to take measures to disseminate information in support of Namibia in resolution 38/36 D. By resolution 38/36 E, the Assembly called for assistance to Namibians, particularly through the United Nations Fund for Namibia.

The International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the-Namibian People for Independence, organized by the Council for Namibia, was held in Paris from 25 to 29 April. It adopted the Paris

Declaration on Namibia and issued a Programme of Action. In the Declaration, the Conference, expressing concern over South Africa's continued illegal occupation, stated that the repeated use of the veto by the Security Council's Western permanent members to prevent the adoption of sanctions had encouraged South Africa to defy the United Nations. Affirming that the Namibian people were entitled to use all means at their disposal to achieve independence, the Conference expressed solidarity with the people under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), their sole and authentic representative, and called for assistance to them. It stated that sanctions were the only means to ensure South Africa complied with United Nations decisions and called on the Security Council to take such steps.

Namibians outside their country continued to receive assistance from various United Nations programmes, financed primarily by the Fund for Namibia. In 1983, the Fund spent $8.8 million, while contributions to the Fund by States totalled $4.3 million. Funding was also provided from the regular United Nations budget, UNDP and executing agencies. The Assembly, in resolution 38/36 E, allocated $1 million to the Fund from the 1984 United Nations regular budget.

The Fund consisted of three main programmes co-ordinated by the United Nations Council for Namibia—the Nationhood Programme for Namibia; the United Nations Institute for Namibia; and educational, social and relief assistance to Namibians. Under the Nationhood Programme, which continued to finance training programmes and surveys of the Namibian economic and social sectors in preparation for independence, the United Nations Vocational Training Centre for Namibia in Angola became operational in August 1983 when 100 students were enrolled. Also concerned with developing human resources in preparation for independence, the Institute for Namibia continued its various research, training and planning activities, including studies on agrarian reform, constitutional options, a language policy and manpower requirements. The third programme, administered by the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, emphasized the immediate needs and welfare of Namibians.

Topics related to this chapter. Africa. Refugees and displaced persons. Human rights. General questions relating to colonial countries.

Chapter IV (pp. 1083-1101)
Other colonial Territories

QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS), 1083; EAST TIMOR QUESTION, 1086; WESTERN SAHARA QUESTION, 1087; OTHER TERRITORIES, 1089.

Progress towards self-determination and independence in individual Non-Self-Governing Territories continued to be closely examined in 1983 by the General Assembly and its Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Committee on colonial countries).

The Assembly adopted resolution 38/12 requesting Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations for a peaceful solution to their sovereignty dispute over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and asking the Secretary-General to continue his renewed mission of good offices to assist the parties. By resolution 38/40, the Assembly urged Morocco and the Frente Popular de Liberación de Saguía el Hamra y Río de Oro to conduct cease-fire negotiations and to create the necessary conditions for a referendum among the people of Western Sahara on their future. In decision 38/402, it decided to defer the item on East Timor to its 1984 session. Human rights issues in Western Sahara and East Timor were taken up by the Commission on Human Rights and in the latter by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (see ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS, Chapter XVIII).

For most of the Territories, the United Nations Secretariat prepared working papers for the 25-member Committee on colonial countries, outlining recent developments. The Committee, and usually its Sub-Committee on Small Territories, examined the situation in each Territory and adopted conclusions and recommendations for the Assembly's consideration; these were discussed mainly in the Fourth Committee.

The Assembly adopted resolutions on American Samoa (38/41), Guam (38/42) and the United States Virgin Islands (38/48), under United States administration, and on Bermuda (38/43), the British Virgin Islands (38/44), the Cayman Islands (38/45), Montserrat (38/46) and the Turks and Caicos Islands (38/47), under United Kingdom administration.

Because of a United Kingdom decision to resume transmitting information on Anguilla to the Committee on colonial countries, the Assembly by decision 38/418 deferred consideration of the Territory to its 1984 session. In decision 38/417, it took note with satisfaction of the imminent accession to independence of Brunei. It noted in decision 38/412 that Australia, as the administering Power, had discussed with representatives of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands the holding of an act of self-determination to determine their future status, and that Australia was ready to receive visiting missions in that regard. It urged in decision 38/415 that the United Kingdom and Spain initiate negotiations to settle the Gibraltar problem. The Assembly called on the United Kingdom in decision 38/414 to continue to safeguard the interests of the people of Pitcairn. It also adopted decisions 38/416 and 38/413, declaring that the dispatch of visiting missions to St. Helena and Tokelau, respectively, should be kept under review.

Topics related to this chapter. General questions relating to colonial countries—information to the United Nations—visiting missions.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter I (pp. 1103-1105)
International Court of Justice

In 1983, the International Court of Justice continued to deal with two contentious cases. A third dispute was referred to it in October.

In December, the General Assembly amended the Pension Scheme Regulations for members of the Court, with effect from the beginning of 1984 (resolution 38/239).

Chapter II (pp. 1106-1115)
Legal aspects of international political relations

Peaceful settlement of disputes between. States, 1106, Good-neighbourliness between States, 1107, Non-use of force in international relations, 1108, Draft code of offences against peace and security, 1110, Draft convention against mercenaries, 1111, Prevention of terrorism, 1113, Draft articles on non-navigational uses of international water- courses, 1114.

In 1983, the United Nations continued to explore effective legal measures for promoting friendly relations among States as well as for combating mercenary activities and international terrorism.

In December, the General Assembly adopted several resolutions calling for continued work towards the legal codification of: good-neighbourliness (38/126), peaceful settlement of disputes (38/131), non-use offered in international relations (38/133), and the banning of mercenary activities (38/137). States were also invited to take measures for the speedy and final elimination of international terrorism (38/130).

Further, the Assembly invited the International Law Commission (ILC) to continue elaborating the 1954 draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind (resolution 38/132), as well as draft articles on non-navigational uses of international watercourses.

Topic related to this chapter. International peace and security.

Chapter III (pp. 1116-1120)
States and international law

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 1116; STATE SUCCESSION IN RESPECT OF PROPERTY, AR- CHIVES AND DEBTS, 1119; STATE IMMUNITIES, LIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY, 1119.

In 1983, a United Nations Conference, held in Austria, adopted the Vienna Convention on Succession of States in respect of State Property, Archives and Debts, the draft of which had been finalized by the International Law Commission (ILC) in 1981.

ILC at its May-July 1983 session (see Chapter VII of this section) continued preparing draft articles with a view to elaborating legal instruments on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by courier, jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, international liability for injurious consequences arising from acts not prohibited by international law, and State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts.

In December, the General Assembly, by resolution 38/136, condemned acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, and urged States to ensure their protection.

Topics related to this chapter. International organizations and international law: host country relations. Other legal questions: International Law Commission.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter IV (pp. 1121-1126)
International organizations and international law

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 1121; HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS, 1123; DRAFT STANDARD RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR CONFERENCES, 1126.

In 1983, at its April/May session, the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization continued work to that end, and, in December, the General Assembly, by resolution 38/141, asked it to devote more time to considering the maintenance of international peace and security and to complete its work on rationalizing the Organization's existing procedures.

The United Nations remained concerned with the security of missions and their personnel accredited to Headquarters and, by resolution 38/140 adopted in December, the Assembly called on all countries to make the public aware of the role of the United Nations and its accredited missions in strengthening international peace and security.

The Assembly deferred, until its 1984 regular session, consideration of draft standard rules of procedure for United Nations conferences (decision 38/427), and agreed to consider, when its current session resumed, an item on the implementation of United Nations resolutions (decision 38/456).

Topics related to this chapter. International peace and security. Legal aspects of international political relations.

Chapter V (pp. 1127-1130)
Treaties and agreements

In 1983, the General Assembly decided, by resolution 38/139, to convene not earlier than 1985 a conference of plenipotentiaries on the law of treaties between States and international organizations or between such organizations. The International Law Commission (ILC) resumed consideration of the relations between States and international organizations as they related to the status, privileges and immunities of such bodies and their representatives. By decision 38/425, the Assembly agreed that work on reviewing the multilateral treaty-making process should continue in 1984.

As in previous years, several multilateral treaties, concluded under United Nations auspices, were deposited with the Secretary-General. The Assembly approved additional appropriations aimed at eliminating the backlog in publishing the Treaty Series.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter VI (pp. 1131-1138)
International economic law

GENERAL ASPECTS, 1131, Report of UNCITRAL, 1131; INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW, 1132, Unification of trade law, 1133, Most-favoured nation clauses, 1135, Training and assistance, 1136; LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, 1136.

Various legal aspects of international economic relations continued to be dealt with in 1983 by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the General Assembly's Sixth (Legal) Committee.

In December, the Assembly, by resolution 38/135, recommended that States implement the Uniform Rules on Contract Clauses for an Agreed Sum Due upon Failure of Performance, which UNCITRAL had adopted at its May/June session. In taking note of its report, the Assembly, in resolution 38/134, called on UNCITRAL to continue work on the topics in its work programme and reaffirmed the importance of training and assistance in international trade law. On legal aspects of the new international economic order, the Assembly, by resolution 38/128, requested the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to complete an analytical study on the topic for submission in 1984. In resolution 38/127, it again invited States and interested organizations to comment on, among other things, draft articles on most-favoured-nation clauses, which the International Law Commission had adopted in 1978.

Topics related to this chapter. Development and international economic and social policy: economic rights and duties of States. Industrial development: industrial co-operation contracts.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter VII (pp. 1139-1143)
Other legal questions

International Law Commission, 1139, UN Programme for the teaching and study of international law, 1140, Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian- African Legal Consultative Committee, 1142.

In 1983, the International Law Commission (ILC), which held its thirty-fifth session at Geneva from 3 May to 22 July, continued work on the progressive development and codification of international law. By resolution 38/138, the General Assembly recommended that ILC continue work on all the topics in its current programme.

During the year, activities under the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law included the granting of fellowships and the holding of seminars, lectures and training and refresher courses. In December, the Assembly, by resolution 38/129, authorized further activities for 1984 and 1985.

By resolution 38/37 adopted in December, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue strengthening co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Chapter I (pp. 1145-1163)
United Nations financing

A United Nations programme budget for 1984-1985 containing appropriations of $1,587,159,800 was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1983 (resolution 38/236 A). This was $117,520,300, or 7.4 per cent, above the $1,469,639,500 in final appropriations for 1982-1983, also approved by the Assembly in December (resolution 38/226 A). Excluding inflation and foreign exchange rate movements, the real budgetary growth between the two bienniums was calculated by the Secretariat at 0.9 per cent.

Most of the budget was to be financed by assessed contributions from Member States. Assembly-approved estimates of income from other sources totalled $256,685,700 for 1982-1983 (resolution 38/226 B) and $283,892,800 for 1984-1985 (resolution 38/236 B).

The Committee on Contributions began a study on possible changes in the criteria for determining the share of each United Nations Member in future budgets, with a view to making the scale of assessments more equitable.

The Secretary-General reported in August 1983 that the cash position of the United Nations had improved, due in large measure to the fact that many Members were responding to the Assembly's 1982 appeal for expeditious payment of their budget contributions. However, the overall deficit increased by $19.8 million, to a total of $326.4 million, because of withheld contributions relating to activities which some Members regarded as illegal or unjustified.

In November, the Assembly, by decision 38/408, approved a change in the auditing terms of reference, specifying matters on which the United Nations Board of Auditors was asked to give its opinion when reviewing the Organization's financial management.

Approval of the two budgets and action on other financial matters was taken by the Assembly on the recommendation of its Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Chapter II (pp. 1164-1173)
United Nations programmes

PROGRAMME PLANNING, 1164; PROGRAMME BUDGETING, 1168; PROGRAMME EVALUATION, 1170; ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM, 1173.

Further steps were taken in 1983 to improve programme planning, budgeting and evaluation in the United Nations, so that its activities could have greater coherence and impact.

A Programme Planning and Budgeting Board (PPBB), established within the Secretariat in 1982, guided the preparation of the proposed United Nations programme budget for 1984-1985, which the General Assembly adopted in December 1983. In a resolution on programme planning and evaluation (38/227 A), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of United Nations programme planning units and systems. It also asked him to issue as soon as possible rules to implement the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programming Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation adopted by the Assembly in 1982.

The Secretary-General's draft rules, originally requested by the Assembly at the time it adopted the Regulations, were examined in 1983 by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Both bodies recommended changes.

Also by resolution 38/227 A, the Assembly adopted revised versions of two portions of the United Nations medium-term plan for 1984-1989 which it had asked to be reformulated when it adopted the bulk of the plan in 1982. It also asked the Secretary-General to submit to it a statement of programme implications every time proposals for new United Nations activities were made. At the request of the Economic and Social Council in July (resolution 1983/51), the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly a report on experience gained in preparing the 1984-1985 budget.

Plans to strengthen programme evaluation units in the Secretariat, involving the addition of a few posts, were approved by the Assembly in its programme planning resolution.

JIU submitted a number of reports in 1983, most of which evaluated specific programmes. The Assembly requested those bodies to bear in mind a JIU recommendation that they specify which points of each JIU report they approved and disapproved.

The annual report on administrative and budgetary co-ordination in the United Nations system, prepared by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), concentrated in 1983 on cash flow and liquidity problems.

Topics related to this chapter. Operational activities for development-programme evaluation; UNDP programme planning. Science and technology-programme evaluation. Institutional arrangements (economic and social)-co-ordination in the UN system. UN budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Chapter III (pp. 1174-1199)
United Nations officials

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, 1175, Staff composition, 1178, Career development, 1180, Staff representation, 1183, Field staff, 1183, Staff Rules of the United Nations, 1184, Privileges and immunities of the international civil service, 1185; STAFF COSTS, 1186, Salaries and allowances, 1186, Pensions, 1189, Other fringe benefits, 1195; UN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, 1197; TRAVEL, 1198; OTHER UN OFFICIALS, 1199.

Staff in organizations of the United Nations system belonging to the common system of salaries and fringe benefits of the international civil service totalled 50,799 as at 31 December 1983, according to figures compiled for the inter-agency Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). This total consisted of 26,719 in the United Nations Secretariat and 24,080 in specialized agencies and other related intergovernmental organizations. The common system encompassed the entire United Nations system except for the international financial institutions with headquarters at Washington, D. C.

Of the total in the system, 21,113, or 41 per cent, were stationed at the organizations' headquarters, 20,269, or 39 per cent, were at other established offices, and 9,417, or 18 per cent, were project staff, working on technical co-operation and other operational activities in the field. By category, 19,315 were Professionals and 31,484 were in the General Service or related categories.

Salaries and benefits for the international civil service of the common system were for the most part determined by the General Assembly, guided by advice from the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), which in turn consulted the administrations and staff representatives of participating intergovernmental organizations. The Assembly also determined certain personnel management policies to be followed by the central Secretariat, encompassing United Nations staff in units financed mainly under the regular budget. Such staff numbered 16,159 as at 31 December.

In 1983, ICSC held its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, 7 to 24 March at Vienna and 18 July to 5 August in New York, and a special session, 21 to 23 November in New York. After considering its activities and recommendations, the Assembly in December, by resolution 38/232, urged all organizations concerned to implement ICSC decisions, and took a number of actions affecting salaries and benefits. Among them, it asked to be kept informed annually of the difference between international civil service pay and that of the best-paid national civil service, using a new comprehensive method of assessing total compensation; approved an increase in the education grant paid to internationally recruited staff to help them meet the expenses involved in their children's schooling while the staff served outside their home country; and acted on matters relating to job classification, language incentives, field staff, post adjustment (the cost-of-living component of salaries), miscellaneous allowances and a cost-of-living index for pensioners.

By decision 38/451, the Assembly requested consultations on a proposal to remove a prohibition on the recruitment of ICSC members by a United Nations organization within three 'years of leaving the Commission.

Also in December, by resolution 38/231, the Assembly requested special efforts to meet previously established goals aimed at improving the balance among nationalities and women's status in the Secretariat. It accepted the Secretary-General's proposals on job classification of General Service staff at Geneva (resolution 38/284, section XIX). Regarding steps to promote better linguistic balance, it noted a report by the Secretary-General proposing that no limitation be placed on the number of languages a United Nations staff member could study free of charge in the Organization's language-training programme (section VIII). The language teachers in that programme were to be given the contractual status of staff members, the Assembly decided (section XIII).

Acting on proposed amendments to the Staff Rules of the United Nations, the Assembly, by decision 38/450, requested a review of provisions relating to staff/management relations.

An expression of concern about what the Assembly called continuing neglect of principles relating to respect for the privileges and immunities of the international civil service was contained in resolution 38/230. It acted after examining a report on further incidents adversely affecting staff security.

Acting on recommendations by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, the Assembly, by resolution 38/233, decided to raise, for the first time, the contribution rates of staff and their employing organizations to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, so as to improve its financial situation. By the same resolution, the Regulations of the Fund were amended to alter certain benefits and a 1984 budget was approved. A report on the Fund's improved investment picture was noted by the Assembly in decision 38/452.

By resolution 38/235, the Assembly approved the experimental use of an ICSC formula authorizing the United Nations to pay a larger share of the health insurance premiums of Secretariat staff.

As the United Nations Administrative Tribunal delivered 20 judgements during 1983 in cases involving labour contracts of the international civil service, work proceeded on ways to improve coordination with the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In November, by decision 38/409, the Assembly asked that these consultations be accelerated.

The Assembly noted reports on steps to improve United Nations machinery for handling its officials' travel and on savings achieved by using economy-class travel where first-class had once been the norm (resolution 38/234, section IV). It urged maximum restraint on staff travel to attend Assembly sessions (section XVI) and deferred action on proposals to increase certain allowances payable to the officers of two United Nations bodies (section XVII).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Chapter IV (pp. 1200-1211)
Other administrative and management questions

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 1200; DOCUMENTS, 1205; UN PREMISES, 1207; COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS, 1208; UN POSTAL AD- MINISTRATION, 1210.

The General Assembly, in 1983, adopted a number of resolutions on matters related to conferences, meetings and documentation. It approved the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1984-1985 (38/32 A), approving a change of venue for the 1984 regular sessions of three of the regional commissions; and requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Committee on Conferences the summary of the discussion in the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee on the pattern of conferences (38/32 C). By other resolutions, it dealt with the shortening of sessions or adoption of a biennial cycle for sessions of United Nations organs (38/32 D) and with control and limitation of documentation (38/32 E). In addition, it requested information on conference-servicing resources (38/32 F). With the three-year term of the members of the Committee on Conferences expiring at the end of 1983, the Assembly President was requested to appoint 22 Member States for the term starting 1 January 1984 (38/32 B). Most of these actions were taken on the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences.

In December, the Fifth Committee approved additional appropriations for conference services in 1984 totalling $7,340,000.

Improvements to United Nations premises in various parts of the world-notably the office accommodation and common services at Nairobi, Kenya-were considered, and actions taken, by the Assembly in December.

As part of continuing efforts to strengthen co-ordination of information systems in United Nations organizations and agencies, an inter-agency Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems was established in March. The Committee on Information and the Assembly's Special Political Committee reviewed an interim report on acquiring a United Nations communications satellite, and the 1984 budget estimates for the International Computing Centre at Geneva were approved.

Gross revenue from the sale of philatelic items totalled over $6 million in 1983. In December, the Assembly allocated half of the net revenues from the sale of a special issue of postage stamps to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to finance projects to conserve and protect nature and endangered species (38/228 A).

Topics related to this chapter: Institutional machinery. Institutional arrangements.