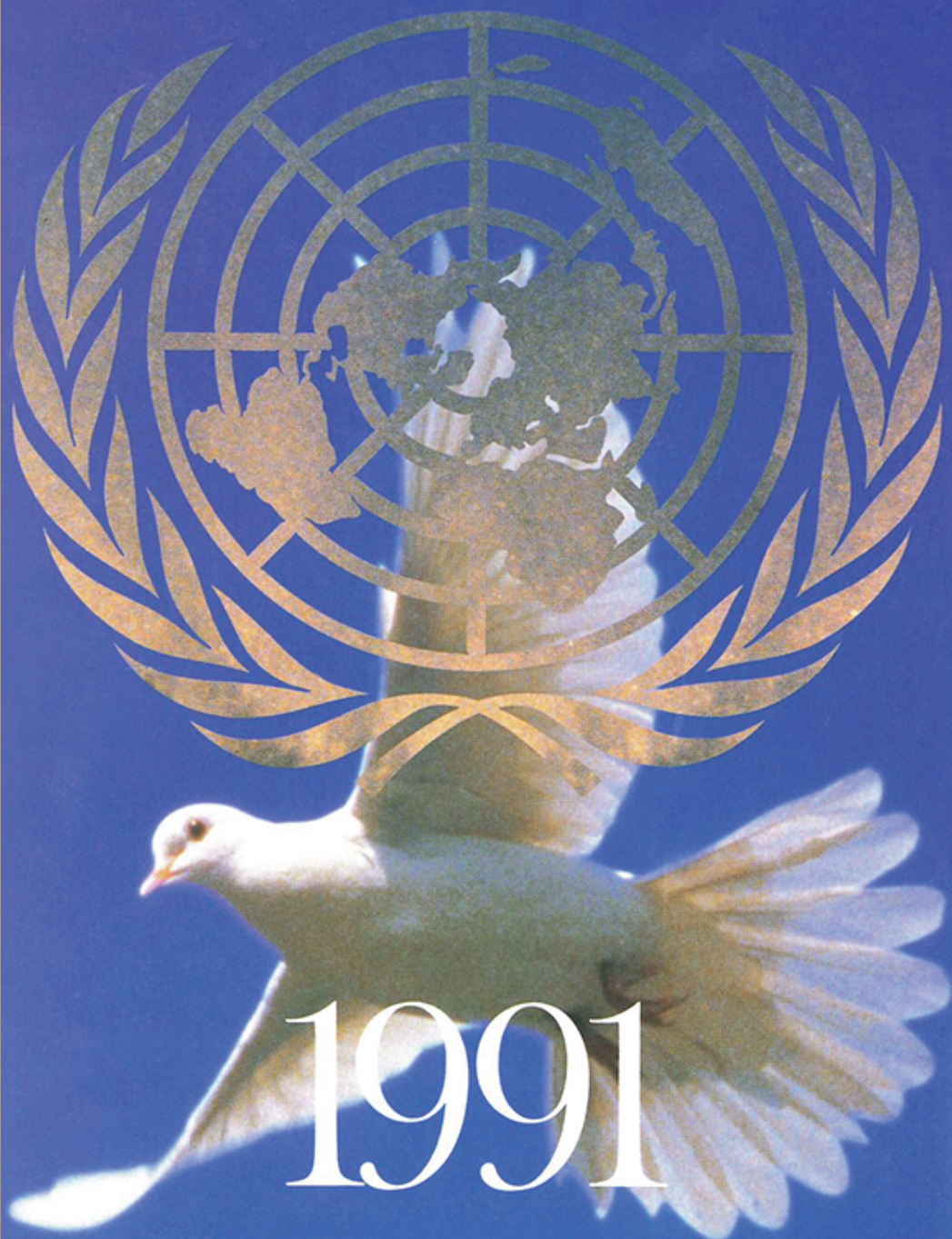


**English**  
Express

The Yearbook of the United Nations  
Yearbook Express

Yearbook of the United Nations



Volume 45



# English

## Express

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, 1991**

**Volume 45**

**Table of contents**

<b>Foreword, by SECRETARY-GENERAL BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>About the 1991 edition of the <i>Yearbook</i> .....</b>	<b>xiv</b>
<b>Abbreviations commonly used in the <i>Yearbook</i> .....</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>Explanatory note on documents .....</b>	<b>xvi</b>
<b>Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization .....</b>	<b>3</b>

**Part One: Political and security questions**

<b>I. International peace and security .....</b>	<b>17</b>
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 17: Implementation of the 1970 Declaration, 17; Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world, 17. REVIEW OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS, 19. PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF SMALL STATES, 22. STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION, 23. SOUTH ATLANTIC ZONE OF PEACE, 24.	
<b>II. Disarmament .....</b>	<b>26</b>
GENERAL ASPECTS, 26. TRENDS IN MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT, 27: UN role in disarmament, 27; Economic aspects of disarmament, 31; Disarmament and the environment, 33. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, 33: Nuclear-arms limitation and disarmament, 33; Cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, 38; Strengthening the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, 41; Nuclear non-proliferation, 43. PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF OTHER WEAPONS, 50: Chemical and biological weapons, 50; New weapons of mass destruction, including radiological weapons, 54; Conventional weapons and advanced technology, 55; Prevention of an arms race in outer space, 65. INFORMATION AND STUDIES, 67: World Disarmament Campaign, 67; Disarmament studies and research, 69.	
<b>III. Peaceful uses of outer space .....</b>	<b>73</b>
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND LAW, 73: Space science and technology, 73; Space law, 76. SPACECRAFT LAUNCHINGS, 79. PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE, 79.	
<b>IV. Other political questions .....</b>	<b>82</b>
INFORMATION, 82: Mass communication, 82; UN public information, 84. RADIATION EFFECTS, 87. ANTARCTICA, 88: Antarctica and the environment, 88; Participation of South Africa, 90. CYPRUS QUESTION, 91: Secretary-General's good offices, 92; UNFICYP, 93. INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS, 95: Admissions to UN membership, 95; Appointment of the	

Secretary-General, 98; Institutional machinery, 98. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, 100: League of Arab States, 100; Organization of the Islamic Conference, 102; Caribbean Community, 104.

## Part Two: Regional questions

- I. Africa ..... 107**
- SOUTH AFRICA AND APARTHEID, 108: General aspects, 109; Relations with South Africa, 113; Situation in South Africa, 120; Apartheid in sports, 121; Culture and apartheid, 122; Women under apartheid, 122; Aid programmes and inter-agency cooperation, 123; Work programme of the Special Committee, 125. OTHER STATES, 127: Angola, 127; Comorian island of Mayotte, 130; Liberia, 132; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 133; Namibia, 133. UN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, 136. COOPERATION BETWEEN OAU AND THE UN SYSTEM, 138.
- II. Americas ..... 141**
- CENTRAL AMERICA SITUATION, 141: El Salvador situation, 147; Guatemala situation, 151. THE CARIBBEAN, 151.
- III. Asia and the Pacific ..... 153**
- EAST ASIA, 153: Korean question, 153. SOUTH-EAST ASIA, 154: Cambodia situation, 154; International security in South-East Asia, 160. SOUTHERN AND WESTERN ASIA, 160: Afghanistan situation, 160; Iran-Iraq situation, 163; Iraq-Kuwait situation, 167.
- IV. Europe ..... 213**
- EASTERN EUROPE, 213: USSR, 213; Yugoslavia situation, 214.
- V. Middle East ..... 220**
- MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, 221: Proposed peace conference under UN auspices, 223; United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, 225. PALESTINE QUESTION, 225: Public information activities, 229; Jerusalem, 230; Assistance to Palestinians, 230. INCIDENTS AND DISPUTES INVOLVING ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL, 236: Iraq and Israel, 236; Lebanon, 236; Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, 244. TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL, 248: Fourth Geneva Convention, 257; Palestinian detainees, 258; Expulsion and deportation of Palestinians, 259; Israeli measures against educational institutions, 261; Golan Heights, 261; Israeli settlements, 262; Living conditions of Palestinians, 264. PALESTINE REFUGEES, 268: UN Agency for Palestine refugees, 268.
- VI. Regional economic and social activities ..... 286**
- REGIONAL COOPERATION, 286. AFRICA, 288: Economic and social trends, 289; Activities in 1990-1991, 291; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 304; Cooperation between SADC and the United Nations, 305. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 306: Economic and social trends,, 308; Activities in 1991, 310; Organizational questions, 319. EUROPE, 319: Economic trends, 320; Activities in 1991, 321; Organizational questions, 325. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 325: Economic trends, 326; Activities in 1991, 327; Cooperation between the United

Nations and the Latin American Economic System, 333. WESTERN ASIA, 334: Economic trends, 335; Social trends, 337; Activities in 1991, 337; Organizational questions, 339.

### Part Three: Economic and social questions

<b>I.</b>	<b>Development policy and international economic cooperation.....</b>	<b>343</b>
	INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 343: Development and economic cooperation, 343. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS AND POLICY, 353.DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 353.DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 354.	
<b>II.</b>	<b>Operational activities for development .....</b>	<b>362</b>
	GENERAL ASPECTS, 362: Financing of operational activities, 366; Field representation, 367; Register of Development Activities, 368. TECHNICAL COOPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 368: UNDP Governing Council, 369; UNDP operational activities, 370; Programme planning and management, 374; Financing, 378; Staff-related matters, 384. OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION, 385: UN programmes, 385; UNDP-DTCD cooperation, 386; United Nations Volunteers, 387; Technical cooperation among developing countries, 388. UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, 393.	
<b>III.</b>	<b>Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief.....</b>	<b>394</b>
	ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 394: Critical situation in Africa, 394. DISASTERS, 411: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 411; Office of the UN Disaster Relief Coordinator, 413; Disaster relief, 414; Chernobyl aftermath, 418. EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE, 421: Humanitarian assistance coordination within the United Nations system, 421; Activities, 424.	
<b>IV</b>	<b>International trade, finance and transport .....</b>	<b>437</b>
	INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 437: Trade policy, 438; Trade promotion and facilitation, 442; Commodities, 445. FINANCE, 450: Financial policy, 450. TRANSPORT, 454: Transport and sustainable development, 454; Multimodal transport, 454; Maritime transport, 455; Technical assistance and training, 456; Transport of dangerous goods, 456. PROGRAMME AND FINANCES OF UNCTAD, 457: Conferences and meetings, 457; UNCTAD programme, 458.	
<b>V.</b>	<b>Transnational corporations .....</b>	<b>460</b>
	DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT, 460: Bilateral, regional and international arrangements, 460. STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING, 461. COMMISSION ON TNCs, 461: TN C s in South Africa, 462; Contribution to UNCED, 463; Corrupt practices, 465; TNCs and international economic relations, 465. CENTRE ON TNCs, 466: Information system, 466; Joint units with the regional commissions, 467; Research, 467; Technical cooperation, 468; Financing, 468.	
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Natural resources, energy and cartography .....</b>	<b>469</b>
	NATURAL RESOURCES, 469: Exploration, 469; Committee on Natural Resources, 472; Coordination of UN activities, 472; Mineral resources, 473; Water resources, 474. ENERGY, 477: Energy resources development, 477; New and renewable energy sources, 478; Nuclear energy, 479. CARTOGRAPHY, 481.	
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Science and technology.....</b>	<b>482</b>

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION, 482: General aspects, 482; Proposed global information network, 483. FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 484: Resource mobilization, 484; UN Fund for Science and Technology for Development, 484. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, 485: Intergovernmental Committee, 485; Advisory Committee, 485; Centre for science and technology, 486; Coordination in the UN system, 486. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, 486: Draft code of conduct, 487.

**VIII. Environment ..... 488**

GENERAL ASPECTS, 488: Environment and development, 488; Environmental perspective, 490; International conventions, 491; World Environment Academy, 492. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES, 492: Environmental monitoring and assessment, 492; Harmonization of environmental measurement, 493; Emerging environmental issues, 493; Protection against harmful products and wastes, 494; Environmental emergencies, 494; Ecosystems, 496. PROGRAMME AND FINANCES OF UNEP, 504: Public information, 504; Finances, 504; UNEP Council, 505. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER ISSUES, 505: Military conflicts and the environment, 505; Effects of chemical weapons on health and environment, 507; Environmental situation in the Israeli-occupied territories, 507; Transfer of environmentally sound technology, 508.

**IX. Population and human settlements ..... 509**

POPULATION, 509: Follow-up to the 1984 Conference, 509; 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, 509; UN Population Fund, 511; Other population activities, 516. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 519: Commission on Human Settlements, 519; Human settlements activities, 519; Conference on human settlements, 521; Human settlements and political, economic and social issues, 522; UN Centre for Human Settlements, 525; Coordination, 528; Financing, 528.

**X. Human rights ..... 529**

DISCRIMINATION, 529: Racial discrimination, 529; Other aspects of discrimination, 535. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, 544: Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol, 544; Self-determination of peoples, 545; Rights of detained persons, 552; Disappearance of persons, 559; Other aspects of civil and political rights, 561. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, 567: Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 568; Right to development, 569; Right to an adequate standard of living, 570; Extreme poverty, 570; Right to own property, 571; Right to adequate housing, 571; Popular participation and human rights, 571. ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 571: National institutions for human rights protection, 573; UN machinery, 574; 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, 578; Public information activities, 580; Advisory services, 581; International human rights instruments, 582; Twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants, 587; Electoral processes, 587; Regional arrangements, 591; Responsibility to promote and protect human rights, 591; International cooperation in human rights, 591; Internally displaced persons and humanitarian assistance, 592. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, 592: Africa, 593; Asia and the Pacific, 598; Europe and the Mediterranean, 607; Latin America and the Caribbean, 607; Middle East, 611; Other alleged human rights violations, 613; Mass exoduses, 613; Other aspects of human rights violations, 615. OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, 616: Additional Protocols 1 and 11 to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 616; Rights of the child, 616; Youth and human rights, 618; Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, 619; Human rights and science and technology, 619; Human rights of disabled persons, 627; Human rights and peace, 627.

**XI. Health, food and nutrition ..... 628**

HEALTH, 628. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 638: Food problems, 638; Food aid, 640.

**XII. Human resources, social and cultural development..... 644**

HUMAN RESOURCES, 644: Human resources development, 644; Education and literacy, 646; UN research and training institutes, 647. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 651: Social aspects of development, 651; Crime prevention and criminal justice, 660; Cultural development, 668.

**XIII. Women..... 672**

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, 672: Implementation of the Nairobi Strategies, 672. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT, 679: UN Development Fund for Women, 683. STATUS OF WOMEN, 684. ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, 688.

**XIV. Children, youth and ageing persons ..... 691**

CHILDREN, 691: UN Children's Fund, 691. YOUTH, 696. AGEING PERSONS, 697: International cooperation on ageing, 697.

**XV. Refugees and displaced persons ..... 702**

UNHCR PROGRAMME AND FINANCES, 702: Programme policy, 702; Financial and administrative questions, 704. REFUGEE ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION, 706: Assistance, 706; Refugee protection, 719. EARLY WARNING OF POSSIBLE REFUGEE FLOWS, 720.

**XVI. Drugs of abuse..... 721**

Drug abuse and international control, 721; Supply and demand, 728; Conventions, 737; Organizational questions, 737.

**XVII. Statistics..... 742**

**XVIII. Institutional arrangements ..... 749**

RESTRUCTURING QUESTIONS, 749. COORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM, 760. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, 763: Cooperation with other organizations, 763; Other organizational matters, 772.

**Part Four: Trusteeship and decolonisation**

**I. QUESTIONS RELATING To DECOLONIZATION ..... 777**

1960 DECLARATION ON COLONIAL COUNTRIES, 777. OTHER GENERAL QUESTIONS, 791. OTHER COLONIAL TERRITORIES, 793.

**II. INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM..... 810**

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 810. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM, 812.

**Part Five: Legal questions**

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<b>I.</b>	<b>International Court of Justice .....</b>	<b>817</b>
	Judicial work of the Court, 817; Organizational questions, 821.	
<b>II.</b>	<b>Legal aspects of international political relations .....</b>	<b>822</b>
	Peaceful settlement of disputes between States, 822; Good-neighbourliness between States, 822; Draft code of crimes against peace and security, 823; Prevention of terrorism, 823; Draft articles on non-navigational uses of international watercourses, 825; Draft articles on most-favoured-nation clauses, 825.	
<b>III.</b>	<b>States and international law .....</b>	<b>827</b>
	DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 827.STATE IMMUNITIES, LIABILITY, RELATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY, 829.TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS, 831.	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Law of the Sea.....</b>	<b>833</b>
	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 833; Preparatory Commission, 834; Functions of the Secretary-General, 837.	
<b>V.</b>	<b>Other legal questions.....</b>	<b>841</b>
	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 841: Strengthening the role of the United Nations, 841; Host country relations, 845; United Nations Decade of International Law, 846. INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION, 847: UN Programme for the teaching and study of international law, 849. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, 852: Report of UNCITRAL, 852; International trade law, 853; Legal aspects of the new international economic order, 854.	

**Part Six: Administrative and budgetary questions**

<b>I.</b>	<b>United Nations financing and programming .....</b>	<b>859</b>
	UNITED NATIONS FINANCING, 859: Financial situation, 859; Financing of peacekeeping operations, 861; Efficiency review, 863. UN BUDGET, 864: Budget for 1990- 1991,864; Budget for 1992-1993, 866; Questions on the 1992-1993 programme budget, 869; Financing of the Working Capital Fund, 878. CONTRIBUTIONS, 879: Scale of assessments, 879; Inflation and currency fluctuation, 883. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT ING, 883. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES, 886: Programme planning, 886; Rationalization of work, 888; Report of the Economic and Social Council, 890; Joint Inspection Unit, 890. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY COORDINATION, 890.	
<b>II.</b>	<b>United Nations officials .....</b>	<b>891</b>
	PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, 891: Staff composition, 891; Staff rules and regulations, 896; International Civil Service Commission, 897; Privileges and immunities, 904. STAFF COSTS, 904: Emoluments of top-echelon officials, 905; Pensions, 906. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, 911. TRAVEL, 912: Standards of accommodation for air travel, 912.	
<b>III.</b>	<b>Other administrative and management questions.....</b>	<b>914</b>
	CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 914: Mandate of the Committee on Conferences, 914; Calendar of meetings, 914; Committee and commission workload, 917; Conferences and meeting services,	



918. DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 920: Documents limitation, 920; Organization of editorial services, 920; Printing and publications policy, 921. UN PREMISES, 922: Conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok, 922; Administrative and common services at Vienna, 923; United Nations Information Centre at Windhoek, 923. INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTERS, 923: Technological innovations, 923; Access of Member States to UN informatics systems, 925. UN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION, 926.

### Part Seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

<b>I.</b>	<b>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)</b> .....	<b>929</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>International Labour Organisation (ILO)</b> .....	<b>936</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</b> .....	<b>941</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</b> .....	<b>947</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>World Health Organization (WHO)</b> .....	<b>953</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WORLD BANK)</b> .....	<b>960</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>International Finance Corporation (IFC)</b> .....	<b>966</b>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>International Development Association (IDA)</b> .....	<b>972</b>
<b>IX.</b>	<b>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</b> .....	<b>976</b>
<b>X.</b>	<b>International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)</b> .....	<b>981</b>
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Universal Postal Union (UPU)</b> .....	<b>985</b>
<b>XII.</b>	<b>International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</b> .....	<b>987</b>
<b>XIII.</b>	<b>World Meteorological Organization (WMO)</b> .....	<b>991</b>
<b>XIV.</b>	<b>International Maritime Organization (IMO)</b> .....	<b>998</b>
<b>XV.</b>	<b>World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)</b> .....	<b>1002</b>
<b>XVI.</b>	<b>International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</b> .....	<b>1007</b>
<b>XVII.</b>	<b>United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</b> .....	<b>1010</b>
<b>XVIII.</b>	<b>Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (Icito) and the General Agreement On Tariffs And Trade (GATT)</b> .....	<b>1016</b>

### Appendices

<b>I.</b>	<b>Roster of the United Nations</b> .....	<b>1023</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice</b> .....	<b>1025</b>
	INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE Charter of the United Nations, 1025; Statute of the International Court of Justice, 1034.	
<b>III.</b>	<b>Structure of the United Nations</b> .....	<b>1039</b>
	General Assembly, 1039; Security Council, 1053; Economic and Social Council, 1054; Trusteeship Council, 1064; International Court of Justice, 1065; Other United Nations-related bodies, 1065; Principal members of the United Nations Secretariat, 1068.	
<b>IV</b>	<b>Agendas of United Nations Principal Organs in 1991</b> .....	<b>1071</b>
	General Assembly, 1071; Security Council, 1076; Economic and Social Council, 1077; Trusteeship Council, 1079.	

**V United Nations information centres and services ..... 1080**

**Indexes**

**Using the subject index ..... 1084**  
**Subject index ..... 1085**  
**Index of resolutions and decisions..... 1121**  
**How to obtain previous volumes of the *Yearbook* ..... 1124**

## **Part one: Political and security questions**

### **Chapter I (17-25)**

#### **International peace and security**

In 1991, the General Assembly, following its annual review of the implementation of the 1970 Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, reaffirmed that Declaration (decision 46/414). In other actions, the Assembly welcomed the changes in many countries of the world towards more democratic systems of government (resolution 46/14) and, welcoming the progress made by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations in 1990 and 1991, adopted a series of recommendations and conclusions on peace-keeping matters (resolution 46/48). It also welcomed the establishment in 1989 of the Institute of East-West Dynamics, which was to assist societies in transition in the development of their democratic institutions and market mechanisms (resolution 46/15).

The Assembly, with a view to preserving the security of small States, stressed the importance of unconditional respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the importance of strengthening regional security arrangements (resolution 46/43).

The Assembly urged States to cooperate with the Mediterranean countries in reducing tension, promoting peace and ensuring stability (resolution 46/42). It called on States to cooperate in promoting the objectives established in the 1986 declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, affirmed the importance of the zone to global maritime and commercial transactions and reaffirmed the aspirations of the States of the zone to make it an active instrument for fostering human rights, fundamental freedoms, racial equality, justice and liberty as integral elements of peace, development and cooperation (resolution 46/19).

## **Part one: Political and security questions**

### **Chapter II(26-72)**

#### **Disarmament**

Throughout 1991, the end of the cold war continued to have a positive impact on international relations. Prospects for arms limitation and disarmament improved; major reductions in the military budgets of many of the world's leading military spenders were in hand—a process that was welcomed and at the same time gave rise to its own economic and social challenges.

The Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START), signed by Presidents George Bush of the United States and Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the USSR on 31 July 1991 after nine years of negotiations, provided for radical cuts in the nuclear offensive arms of those two countries.

The Conference on Disarmament (Geneva, 22 January-28 March, 14 May-27 June, 23 July-4 September), a 40-nation multilateral negotiating body, significantly intensified negotiations on a chemical weapons convention. As to the related field of biological weapons, progress was made at the Third Review Conference of the parties to the biological weapons Convention (Geneva, 9-27 September 1991). The Conference adopted its final declaration by consensus, with the States parties agreeing on the need to strengthen the Convention and, more particularly, on the need for enhanced confidence-building measures and exchange of information.

The Disarmament Commission (New York, 22 April-13 May 1991), a deliberative body composed of all United Nations Member States, took on three new agenda items in 1991—nuclear disarmament in the framework of peace and security, with the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons; regional disarmament within the context of global security; and the role of science and technology in international security, disarmament and related fields.

In December, the General Assembly established a United Nations Register of Conventional Arms which, effective 1 January 1992, was to provide data on arms transfers and available background information regarding military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies (resolution 46/36 L).

**Part one: Political and security questions**

**Chapter III(73-81)**

**Peaceful uses of outer space**

During 1991, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Committee on outer space) and its Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees continued their consideration of matters of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The prevention of an arms race in outer space was taken up by the Conference on Disarmament's Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

The Committee on outer space held its thirty-fourth session (Graz, Austria, 27 May-6 June). The General Assembly, in December, endorsed the Committee's recommendations on various space-related issues (resolution 46/45) and reaffirmed the urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space (resolution 46/33).

## **Part one: Political and security questions**

### **Chapter IV(82-104)**

#### **Other political questions**

In 1991, questions related to information, effects of atomic radiation, Antarctica and Cyprus were again on the General Assembly's agenda. Promotion of communication and the free flow of information and United Nations public information policies and activities were the subjects of two Assembly resolutions (46/73 A and B). The Assembly requested the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to continue its work on the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources and noted with satisfaction the Committee's increasing cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (46/44). The Assembly also underlined the significance of Antarctica for international peace and security, environment, global climate conditions, economy and scientific research (46/41 A). The Assembly appealed again for the exclusion of South Africa from the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties until the system and practices of apartheid were eliminated (46/41 B).

The Secretary-General continued his mission of good offices concerning Cyprus with the goal of achieving overall agreement between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, and the Security Council twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus.

Seven new States were admitted to United Nations membership, bringing the number of Members to 166. Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt was named Secretary-General for a five-year term with effect from 1 January 1992.

## **PART two: Regional questions**

### **Chapter I(107-140)**

#### **Africa**

The year 1991 was a momentous one for change in Africa and its relations with the United Nations. It marked a watershed in the Organization's concern with and involvement in African affairs. The democratization process swept the continent while long-standing conflicts were settled in Ethiopia and Angola.

In South Africa, which had been on the United Nations agenda since 1946, significant progress was made towards eradicating apartheid. A significant development during the year was the signing in September of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the South African authorities on voluntary repatriation of South African refugees and political exiles. The repatriation programme was expected to be completed within 12 months and was estimated to cost between \$35 million and \$40 million. In June, the major apartheid laws were repealed, marking the beginning of all-party talks on the country's constitutional future. By the end of 1991, the United Nations had poised itself to address the socio-economic inequalities in South Africa.

In recognition of those developments, the Assembly in December, by resolution 46/79 A, lifted the ban on academic, scientific, sports and cultural links with South Africa which had been in effect since 1980. It called on all Governments, none the less, to continue to observe fully the Security Council mandatory arms embargo of 1977 against South Africa (46/79 C) and to prohibit the supply and shipment of oil and petroleum products to that country (46/79 E). Cracks in the international consensus against South Africa began to appear, however, during the year as some countries moved to lift economic and other sanctions against it, expressing the view that pressure on the country should be eased to encourage the process of negotiations on a new constitution. In a related action (46/79 D), the Assembly reiterated its demand that Israel end its collaboration with South Africa, particularly in the military and nuclear fields. In addition, it urged the Security Council to consider appropriate measures against Israel for violating the arms embargo against South Africa.

The Assembly endorsed the programme of work of the Special Committee against Apartheid (46/79 B), allocating \$480,000 from the United Nations regular budget for special projects to be undertaken by the Committee in 1992. It appealed for generous contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa (46/79 F). In a resolution on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (46/80), it welcomed the Paris Statement adopted in June 1991 by the International Conference on the Educational Needs of the Victims of Apartheid in South Africa and emphasized the responsibility of the international community to assist in bridging the economic and social disparities in South Africa, particularly in the field of education.

Positive developments in southern Africa in 1990 and 1991 generated hopes for a settlement of the region's political conflicts. Namibia in 1991 marked the first anniversary of its independence, while Angola and Mozambique took steps towards political reform. Following a series of negotiations held at Lisbon, Portugal, in 1990 and 1991, the Government of Angola and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola signed a peace agreement on 31 May 1991. In anticipation of that event, the Security Council in May (resolution 696(1991)) established the second United Nations Angola Verification Mission to monitor the implementation of the Peace Accords and eventually oversee elections scheduled for the last quarter of 1992.

The Security Council considered the situation in Liberia in January 1991, a little over a year after conflict had broken out in that West African country. In a statement on behalf of the Council members, the Council President called for respect of the ceasefire agreement. The Secretary-General, at the invitation of the

Economic Community of West African States, sent a representative to Côte d'Ivoire to observe negotiations on Liberia's future.

Relations between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) continued to be strengthened and were expected to reach new heights during the 1990s. Reaffirming that the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s would necessitate the full participation of the international community, the General Assembly urged that the United Nations provide support for a possible OAU peace-keeping operation as well as for the African Economic Community (resolution 46/20).



## **PART two: Regional questions**

### **Chapter II(141-152)**

#### **Americas**

The United Nations played a crucial role in 1991 in accelerating the efforts of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to attain and consolidate peace in the subregion. The countries agreed on further frameworks to facilitate their peace negotiations and the United Nations Observer Group in Central America continued to verify and promote compliance with the security undertakings they had entered into at their Esquipulas II Summit in 1987.

The Secretary-General and his Personal Representative for the Central American Peace Process remained continuously engaged in mediating the negotiations between the Government and the opposition party in El Salvador and in Guatemala. On the Secretary-General's recommendation, the Security Council, among other actions, established the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador. The Council twice extended the Group's mandate and the General Assembly approved funds for its financing and that of the Mission and adopted two resolutions on the general situation in Central America.

During the year, the Council and the Assembly also met to consider the situation in Haiti resulting from the overthrow of the Government in September.

## **PART two: Regional questions**

### **Chapter III (153-212)**

#### **Asia and the Pacific**

Significant progress was achieved during 1991 towards the settlement of certain long-standing conflicts in Asia and the Pacific.

Even as the United Nations Command continued to report violations of the 1953 Armistice Agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, the two sides signed an accord towards the end of the year in an effort to promote national reconciliation. Negotiations towards a political settlement of the Cambodia situation culminated in the signing in October of the Paris Agreements, which called for their implementation under United Nations auspices. With the signing of the Agreements, an official cease-fire went into effect and the United Nations emplaced an advance mission in Cambodia in November, to pave the way for a United Nations transitional authority there to oversee free and fair elections for a new Cambodian Government.

Throughout the year, the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative were unremitting in their efforts to achieve a comprehensive solution of the Afghanistan problem, based on the 1988 Geneva Agreements concluded under United Nations auspices. The United Nations Iran-Iraq Observer Mission, mandated in 1988 to supervise the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq and the withdrawal of their troops to internationally recognized boundaries, was terminated at the end of February 1991 with troop withdrawal completed in that month. Thereafter, the United Nations began action aimed at assisting the parties in their reconstruction efforts.

The international crisis created by Iraq's 1990 invasion and occupation of Kuwait continued into 1991. Iraq's defiance of the Security Council demand that it immediately and unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait, as well as its disregard for the opportunity given it to comply until mid-January, led to military action against Iraq by Member States cooperating with Kuwait, in implementation of that demand and of related Council decisions. The military operations, having successfully forced Iraq's withdrawal, were suspended on 27 February. Resolution 687(1991), adopted by the Council on 3 April, embodied the terms of a formal cease-fire, which Iraq officially accepted on 6 April. That acceptance was subsequently confirmed as irrevocable and unqualified to the Council President, who acknowledged it on 11 April and declared the formal cease-fire effective. The Council adopted 14 other resolutions relating to the Iraq-Kuwait situation in general and to the terms of the cease-fire in particular. By one of these, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission was established.

During and in the aftermath of the hostilities in the Persian Gulf region, the United Nations system urgently dispatched various fact-finding missions to Iraq and Kuwait for the purpose of determining immediate and effective humanitarian assistance.

The Economic and Social Council, by decision 1991/211 of 25 March, decided to hold, at its 1991 second regular session, an informal exchange of views on the economic, social and environmental consequences of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and its short-, medium-and long-term implications, based on documentation to be provided by the Secretary-General. (For action taken by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Environment Programme, see PART THREE, Chapters II, XIV and VIII, respectively. For details on the human rights situation in Iraq, see PART THREE, Chapter X).

**PART two: Regional questions**

**Chapter IV (213-219)**

**Europe**

The tide of micro-nationalism that began to rise in 1989, and swept through Central and Eastern Europe and the USSR, led to the splintering of the USSR in 1991 into 15 new States that were its former constituent republics. Of these, the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which were the first to declare independence, were admitted to membership of the United Nations in September.

Reverting to their Balkan pluralism in 1991 were four of the six republics comprising Yugoslavia: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia, which unilaterally declared independence between June and October. The declarations resulted in armed conflicts with the Republic of Serbia, which disapproved of them, and in ethnic strife within the four republics. Several cease-fire agreements, negotiated through the efforts of the European Community, had failed to take hold. The escalating violence was brought to the attention of the Security Council in September. By three resolutions, the Council sought to bring about acceptance of a cease-fire by all the Yugoslav parties so that a United Nations peacekeeping operation might be deployed to establish the conditions necessary for negotiations on Yugoslavia's future.

## **PART two: Regional questions**

### **Chapter V (220-285)**

#### **Middle East**

Throughout 1991, the search for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict continued to be vigorously pursued by various organs and bodies of the United Nations. Although not held under United Nations auspices, the peace conference that took place at Madrid, Spain in October/November under the co-sponsorship of the USSR and the United States was welcomed by the General Assembly as a significant step towards the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. At the same time, the Assembly considered that the convening of an international Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, would contribute to the promotion of peace.

The Palestine question—reaffirmed by the Assembly as the core of the Middle East situation—was kept under review by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian rights). The Committee recalled the principles for a solution to the question and for a comprehensive peace, and expressed its support for the intifadah, the Palestinian uprising, which entered its fourth year in December. It underlined the necessity for protecting the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territory and affirmed the United Nations responsibility for assistance to promote their socio-economic development. The Assembly endorsed the Committee's recommendations and drew the Security Council's attention to the fact that action was still pending on its original (1976) recommendations concerning realization of the Palestinians' inalienable rights.

The United Nations Department of Public Information continued its special information programme on the Palestine question, with special emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America, and was requested by the Assembly to do so again during 1992-1993.

Assistance to Palestinians was provided by various United Nations organizations. The Assembly called for the immediate lifting of Israeli restrictions hindering the implementation of assistance projects and called for an increase in assistance, taking into account the economic losses of the Palestinians as a result of the hostilities in the Persian Gulf (see PART TWO, Chapter III).

The situation in Lebanon was marked by continued hostilities and violence throughout the year. However, the Government was able to extend its authority beyond the greater Beirut area. Militias were successfully disbanded and their weapons turned over to the Lebanese army. In the most southern part of the country, however, Israel consolidated its hold over the area it controlled, increasingly separating it from the rest of Lebanon. The Security Council twice extended, for periods of six months each, the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The Council members also reaffirmed their commitment to the full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries, and asserted that any State should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State.

The Council similarly twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, which continued to supervise the observance of the cease-fire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic in the Golan Heights and to ensure that there were no military forces in the area of separation between the two countries. The Assembly again declared null and void Israel's 1981 decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the Golan Heights, which, it said, had resulted in their effective annexation.

The Committee on Palestinian rights and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories reported a further deteriorating situation of the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories, especially in the West Bank

and Gaza, with increasing violence, extended curfews and restrictions of movement in the wake of the hostilities in the Persian Gulf. The Security Council considered the situation, expressed concern about the violence in Gaza and deplored the expulsion of Palestinians. The Council unanimously declared that such expulsion was in violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (fourth Geneva Convention) and that Israel must refrain from deporting Palestinians and ensure the safe and immediate return of all those deported.

The Assembly demanded that Israel desist from certain policies and practices, comply with the fourth Geneva Convention, desist from changing the territories' status and demographic composition, and rescind its expulsion of Palestinian leaders as well as its measures against Palestinian detainees and educational institutions. The Assembly also strongly deplored the extensive confiscation of land, diversion of water resources and depletion of natural and economic resources by Israel, as well as the displacement and deportation of the population. Israel's practices in violation of human rights in the territories were also considered by the Commission on Human Rights (see PART THREE, Chapter X).

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continued its assistance to over 2.5 million Palestine refugees who were living in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

## **PART two: Regional questions**

### **Chapter VI (286-339)**

#### **Regional economic and social activities**

The five United Nations regional commissions continued their efforts to promote economic and social development in their respective regions during 1991.

During the first half of 1991, three of the five commissions held their regular sessions. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), after holding a resumed forty-fifth session on 14 December 1990, held its forty-sixth session at Geneva from 9 to 19 April; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held its forty-seventh session at Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 1 to 10 April; and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) held its twenty-sixth session/seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 13 May and the twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole from 29 April to 7 May. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) did not meet in 1991. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was scheduled to meet in April 1991, but the session was postponed for a year in view of the situation prevailing at the time in the region.

Among the resolutions adopted at the July 1991 session of the Economic and Social Council concerning issues of interest to the regional commissions were: admission of Macau as an associate member of ESCAP (resolution 1991/79); admission of Kiribati as a full member of ESCAP (1991/80); the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000) (1991/81); acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (1991/82); and the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000) (1991/83).

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter I (343-361)**

##### **Development policy and international economic cooperation**

International political and economic developments during 1991 resulted in the slowest rate of global economic growth since 1982; they included the hostilities in the Persian Gulf region, the unification of Germany, and the restructuring under way in Central and Eastern Europe. Zero growth overall was forecast, with large-scale declines in the output of Eastern Europe and recession in the developed market economies. Developing economies continued to experience problems that had persisted over most of the preceding decade.

In July, a special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council was held to discuss the impact of the evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy and, in December, the General Assembly called on the international community to consider assisting developing countries whose economies had been most affected to adapt to those changes (resolution 46/202). Also in December, the Assembly called on Member States to ensure the implementation of the 1990 Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries (46/144).

With regard to the least developed among the developing countries, the Assembly strongly urged the international community to implement their commitments as set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the 1990s, adopted in 1990 by the Second United Nations Conference on LDCs (46/156). Noting that the Committee for Development Planning (CDP) had, at its April 1991 session, drawn up new criteria for identifying LDCs, the Assembly requested the Committee to review every three years the list of low-income countries and identify those which should qualify for inclusion in, or graduation from, the list of LDCs. It endorsed CDP's recommendation to include Cambodia, Madagascar, Solomon Islands, Zaire and Zambia in the list (46/206). As to land-locked developing countries, the Assembly urged donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide them and transit developing countries with financial and technical assistance to construct, maintain and improve their transport, storage and transit infrastructures and facilities (46/212).

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter II (362-393)**

##### **Operational activities for development**

In 1991, a year marked by the widening of the economic gap between the industrialized North and the developing South, the United Nations continued its efforts to alleviate the situation in the developing countries. During 1990 the organizations of the United Nations system provided a total of \$8.5 billion to those countries in official development assistance. Of that amount, \$4.7 billion was given in grants and \$3.8 billion in concessional loans. Concessional resources (development grants and concessional loans) grew by 16 per cent in 1990 against a net decline in 1989.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—the central funding and coordinating body in the system for matters of technical assistance for developing countries—spent a total of \$1.4 billion on field programme activities in 1991, rising from about \$1 billion in the previous year. Regionally, Africa absorbed 37.2 per cent of field programme expenditures, the largest proportion.

The United Nations system was increasingly aware of the need to develop new ways to address, in programmatic terms, the problems facing developing countries. During 1991, UNDP focused attention on formulating plans for its fifth programming cycle (1992-1996) with an approach to planning and implementation in terms of broad, multidisciplinary, long-lasting programmes rather than sets of individual or more specific projects.

The United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development had 980 technical cooperation projects under execution in 1991, with a total delivery of \$178.1 million in project expenditures. Projects financed by UNDP represented \$119.6 million, and the remainders were financed by other United Nations organizations and trust funds.

The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) continued to grow in 1991, with UNV specialists and field workers rising from 1,801 at the end of 1989 to an estimated 2,080 at the end of 1991. The majority of UNV assignments were in agriculture, community development, health and education. Following the pattern of previous years, nearly three quarters of all UNV assignments were in the least developed countries (LDCs) and in land-locked and small-island States; roughly half of them were in Africa and some 30 per cent were in Asia and the Pacific.

In May/June, the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held its seventh session and adopted a number of decisions on strengthening such cooperation. In December, those decisions were endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 46/159.

In 1991, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of its establishment as a multilateral agency providing small-scale capital assistance to officially designated LDCs and other countries regarded as LDCs. It was a record year for UNCDF in terms of new project commitments, which reached \$82 million. The Fund's activities continued to be driven by national priorities and by UNDP's areas of focus, particularly poverty eradication and grass-roots participation, women in development and environmental protection.

The General Assembly, in resolution 46/219, took action on a broad range of aspects relating to operational activities of the United Nations system. It stressed the responsibility of Governments in determining their development programmes and that national execution should be the norm for United Nations-funded programmes.



### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter III (394-436)**

##### **Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief**

In 1991, the United Nations system continued to strive towards a more unified, coordinated approach in providing special assistance to countries with severe economic difficulties. Many of these problems were exacerbated by the frequency of disasters, both natural and man-made.

The final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 was held in 1991, noting that, in spite of much progress toward democratization, the economic and social situation in Africa actually worsened with the general downward trend in the global economy. Special economic assistance was provided to Chad, Djibouti, Namibia and other front-line States bordering South Africa.

The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction was well under way in 1991, with several major meetings and events, as the United Nations system, particularly the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, continued its disaster relief and mitigation activities. With a view to strengthening collective United Nations efforts in that area, the General Assembly adopted guiding principles and other recommendations for the handling of emergency situations, including early warning, prevention, preparedness and stand-by capacity, consolidated appeals and strengthened coordination and leadership (resolution 46/182).

Emergency relief was offered to Bangladesh in the wake of a cyclone, to the Philippines after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, and to countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region to help combat desertification. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continued its fight against locust, grasshopper and screw-worm infestations.

The Secretary-General appointed the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna as the Coordinator of United Nations activities related to the 1986 accident at Chernobyl. An ad hoc inter-agency task force, established in April, was to be involved for five years in all aspects of international assistance efforts. The Economic and Social Council welcomed the United Nations response to the accident and the practical measures to facilitate elaboration and presentation of a joint plan to alleviate its effects (resolution 1991/51). At the Chernobyl Pledging Conference in September, a total of \$8 million was received or pledged, together with a significant amount of in-kind assistance.

Economic assistance was afforded to Angola and Liberia for rehabilitation, as was emergency assistance to Somalia and the Sudan during civil conflict. In view of the critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa, the Secretary-General established a new Special Emergency Programme for the area.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America continued pursuant to a three-year extension and included Panama as a full participant. Costa Rica and Panama received emergency assistance after severe damage by an earthquake, as did Haiti for its rapidly deteriorating social and economic situation.

The Gulf Task Force continued in 1991 assisting countries in the Middle East affected by the hostilities in the Persian Gulf. Assistance was also granted to Lebanon and Yemen for continuance of their respective reconstruction and development programmes.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter IV (437-459)**

##### **International trade, finance and transport**

Although changes in the world economy had brought prosperity to many parts of the world, the position of most of the developing countries had been deteriorating for some time, the Secretary-General stated in his 1991 report on the work of the United Nations. World trade had increased fairly rapidly but not so the exports and imports of developing countries. Foreign direct investment flows had quadrupled in the 1980s but the share of developing countries had fallen sharply. As a result of the debt crisis, the indebted countries as a whole were suffering a net outflow of resources. The external debt of capital-importing countries, which was less than \$600 billion in 1988, had reached \$1.2 trillion. Income per capita had declined in many parts of the world during the preceding decade. All that had fed the forces leading to violent strife; it had exacerbated health and ecological problems; it had alarmingly increased the ranks of the poor and the displaced. More than 1 billion people lived in absolute poverty.

Taking up the question of trade and development, the Economic and Social Council in July urged Governments to halt and reverse protectionism (resolution 1991/52) and requested the United Nations regional commissions to elaborate projects relating to international trade facilitation (1991/76).

In December, the General Assembly urged the participants in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to achieve a successful and balanced outcome (46/209). It urged Governments, the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system to present their views to the Secretary-General on the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade (46/207). Further, the Assembly stressed the need to improve the database of the Trade Control Measures Information System (46/211).

On the question of the international debt crisis and development, the Assembly emphasized the need for additional debt-relief measures (46/148). It decided to defer until 1992 consideration of a proposal to establish an advisory commission on debt and development (decision 46/433). It took note of the Secretary-General's report on the recent evolution of the international debt strategy (46/434).

The Assembly decided to convene the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII) at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 1992 (45/261). It also decided to consider in 1992 the convening of an international conference on the financing of development (46/205).

In the area of international transport, the Council requested the Secretary-General to incorporate, publish and circulate the new recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (1991/57). The Assembly decided that a United Nations/International Maritime Organization conference on a draft convention on maritime liens and mortgages would be held in 1993 (46/213).

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XXV (460-468)**

##### **Transnational corporations**

During 1991, transnational corporations (TNCs) continued to attract the attention of the international community in view of their major impact on global investment flows and international development and trade.

The Commission on Transnational Corporations considered, among other things, the role of TNCs in South Africa, the code of conduct on TNCs, TNCs and international economic relations, and corrupt practices in international business transactions. The Commission discussed the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and its own contribution and that of the Centre to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Commission's Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts reviewed international standards of accounting and reporting.

In July, the Economic and Social Council called on all TNCs to stop operations in South Africa and requested the Secretary-General to continue to collect information on the activities of TNCs there (1991/54). The Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the latest trends in foreign direct investment and affirmed that the Preparatory Committee for UNCED should consider TNCs' commitment to and possible positive role in the protection of the environment (1991/55). The Council renewed the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (1991/56).

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter VI (469-481)**

##### **Natural resources, energy and cartography**

The utilization of natural resources and problems of energy continued to be dealt with by several United Nations bodies and organs in 1991. The United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration entered into a new phase of its 18-year existence as the first replenishments from successful projects were received.

Environmental concerns became more prominent in many areas, such as in the management of water resources. Commenting on a strategy for the 1990s, the Secretary-General stated that the lack of integration of economic, environmental and engineering aspects into water development had been a major reason for the limited achievements under the 1977 Mar del Plata Action Plan for the development of water resources. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1991/84 on an International Conference on Water and the Environment to be held in 1992, affirmed the vital importance of water as a finite and fragile resource.

The possibilities of new and renewable sources of energy continued to be explored. Nuclear energy had the potential to lessen significantly the impact of energy consumption on the environment, but its social acceptability remained in question, due in part to the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident (see PART THREE, Chapter III).

The Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in February 1991.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter VII (482-487)**

##### **Science and technology**

The United Nations continued its efforts in 1991 to strengthen the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries. Ecological concerns were addressed by many bodies dealing with science and technology and were reflected in resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

The merger of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development, which financed scientific and technological activities in developing countries, with the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration resulted in considerable savings.

Consultations on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology were the most intensive and cooperative since the suspension of the code negotiation in 1985. Differences between developing countries and developed market-economy countries remained, but for the first time there was an agreement to resume negotiations on the basis of a fresh approach.

The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, at its April/May session, focused on endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, the financing of science and technology activities, and environmentally sound technologies. Policy advice to the Intergovernmental Committee was provided by the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination addressed issues relating to greater harmonization within the United Nations system in science and technology activities.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter VIII (488-508)**

##### **Environment**

In 1991, the interdependency of environment and development and the global scale of the issue was highlighted by the United Nations as it continued to prepare for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Preparatory Committee for UNCED held two sessions during the year, while several other forums were also involved in the preparations.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) continued to monitor the environment and encourage and coordinate sound environmental practices. Together with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, UNEP became the implementing agency for the Global Environment Facility, a new pilot financing operation established to assist developing countries meet specific challenges to the environment in a way that would bring global benefits.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter IX (509-528)**

##### **Population and human settlements**

Major activities of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 1991 focused on maternal child health care and family planning; information, education and communication; basic data collection; utilization of population data and research for policy formulation and development planning; and women, population and development. Special programme interests were dominated by continued efforts to control the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic and activities to improve understanding of the link between population and environmental concerns. UNFPA assisted some 3,900 technical cooperation projects of country, regional and intercountry nature. It approved 287 new country projects, amounting to \$28.3 million.

The Economic and Social Council emphasized that population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development would be the overall theme of a 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The Population Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference considered the Conference's objectives, nature, organization and financial implications.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, also known as Habitat, continued to assist developing countries in all aspects of human settlements activities, including technical cooperation, research and development and information dissemination. As the lead agency in the United Nations system for coordinating activities related to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, Habitat worked towards the goal of facilitating the provision of adequate shelter for all.

The Commission on Human Settlements considered as its major themes the use of energy by households, in construction and in production of building materials, emphasizing energy sources which were new and renewable and minimized pollution, and human settlements in relation to sustainable development within the Global Strategy for Shelter. It recommended for adoption by the General Assembly a Plan of Action for 1992-1993 to implement the Strategy and, for consideration of the Assembly in 1992, the convening, possibly in 1997, of a second United Nations conference on human settlements.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter X (529-627)**

##### **Human rights**

In 1991, the United Nations continued its efforts to foster human rights and fundamental freedoms world-wide and to curtail their violations.

Protection of detained persons was again a substantial part of the United Nations work in human rights. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances continued to investigate cases and the Commission on Human Rights established a working group of independent experts to investigate cases of detention imposed arbitrarily or otherwise. Another working group was set up to consider a draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Work progressed on other draft declarations concerning freedom and non-discrimination in respect of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country; the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms; the rights of indigenous peoples; and the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

The Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights (1993) held its first session in September. Preparations were undertaken for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993). In December, the General Assembly outlined the Year's programme of activities (resolution 46/128).

The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, entered into force on 11 July; it had been adopted by the General Assembly in 1989. In December, the Assembly adopted a declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights (46/81). Also in December, the Assembly adopted the Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and for the Improvement of Health Care (46/119).

Situations involving alleged violations of human rights on a large scale in several countries were again examined.

Action on these and other human rights issues taken by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session, held at Geneva from 28 January to 8 March 1991, was embodied in 82 resolutions and 10 decisions; those by its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-third session, held also at Geneva from 5 to 30 August, numbered 39 resolutions and 19 decisions.



### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XI (628-643)**

##### **Health, food and nutrition**

During 1991, the United Nations continued to respond to international emergencies in the health and food areas—the continuing spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and hunger, malnutrition and famine caused by man-made and natural disasters.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that world-wide the number of adults with AIDS totalled more than 1 million and that 400,000 infants born infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) had developed AIDS. WHO revised upwards its global estimate of adults infected with HIV from 6-8 million to 9-10 million and forecast that by the year 2000 some 30 million adults would have been infected with HIV, while 10 million infants would have been born infected.

The World Food Council (WFC) said it was deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation of hunger and malnutrition in the world. Some 45 million people—30 million of them in Africa were threatened by famine, many of them refugees displaced by war and civil strife. Among the millions of people afflicted by natural disasters were the survivors of deadly cyclones in Bangladesh. Less visible but no less tragic, WFC said, was the continuing crisis of chronic hunger and malnutrition. In developing countries, one out of three children under the age of five was malnourished. Malnutrition and common, preventable diseases killed 40,000 children each day.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XII (644-671)**

##### **Human resources, social and cultural development**

In 1991, United Nations bodies and agencies continued to promote human resources development, literacy, social development, an improved crime prevention and criminal justice programme and cultural development.

The United Nations Development Programme issued the second Human Developments Report, which focused on public spending for human development. It concluded, among other things, that the lack of political commitment, not of financial resources, was often the real cause of human neglect.

In a report on the world social situation, the Secretary-General concluded that in developing countries, poverty, poor health and low levels of literacy, especially among women, had been major causes for concern.

Concerning crime prevention and criminal justice, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to dissolve the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and establish a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice as a new functional commission of the Council (resolution 46/152).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization continued to combat illiteracy and to promote the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin, as mandated by the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XIII (672-690)**

##### **Women**

During 1991, the United Nations continued the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women—a set of measures adopted in 1985 to overcome obstacles to the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985).

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-fifth session (Vienna, 27 February-8 March 1991), recommended seven resolutions and two decisions to the Economic and Social Council. Acting on those recommendations, the Council adopted resolutions on violence against women (1991/18); Palestinian women (1991/19); women and children under apartheid (1991/20) (see PART TWO, Chapter I); disabled women (1991/21); refugee and displaced women and children (1991/23) (see PART THREE, Chapter XV); national, regional and international machinery for the advancement of women (1991/22); and improving the status of women in the United Nations (1991/17) (see PART SIX, Chapter II). The Council requested the Commission, as the preparatory body for a world conference on women (1995), to assess progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and identify measures to ensure the achievement of its objectives during 1995-2000.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its tenth session (Vienna, 21 January-1 February), considered two initial reports and eight second periodic reports of States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on their implementation of the Convention. By the end of the year, the Convention had received 96 signatures and 110 ratifications or accessions.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XIV (691-701)**

##### **Children, youth and ageing persons**

During 1991, the number of signatories to the Declaration and Plan of Action of the 1990 World Summit for Children rose to 135, and there were 107 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization announced that their goal of 80 per cent coverage of universal child immunization against measles, tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis had been achieved.

In May, the Economic and Social Council considered the issue of women and children under apartheid (see PART TWO, Chapter I).

In December, the United Nations Principles for Older Persons were adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 46/91).

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XV (702-720)**

##### **Refugees and displaced persons**

There was a deterioration in the overall refugee situation in 1991, particularly in the Persian Gulf, the Horn of Africa, South-West Asia and Europe. While progress was made in other areas, notably in Central America and South-East Asia, the world's refugee population remained at a staggering 17 million.

In 1991, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with the support of the international community, continued to devise new approaches to the refugee problem and to seek durable solutions. During 1991, its fortieth anniversary, UNHCR charted a forward-looking strategy focusing on emergency preparedness, prevention and finding solutions to the totality of the refugee problem, from exodus and relief to return and reintegration.

In October, the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme considered, among other things, refugee protection, refugee women and children, Indo-Chinese refugees, repatriation of refugees to Cambodia and Central American refugees.

The Nansen Medal for 1991—awarded since 1954 in honour of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees— was awarded posthumously to Paul Weiss (United Kingdom), for his contribution to refugee law, and to Libertine Amathila (Namibia), the first African woman to receive the distinction, for her long service to refugee children.

Sadako Ogata (Japan) assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 1 January 1991.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XVI (721-741)**

##### **Drugs of abuse**

Illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse continued to be serious problems throughout the world in 1991, imperiling public health in virtually all countries. Programmes designed to eradicate narcotic plants on a large scale and to provide large-scale alternative income possibilities for farmers had not yet been implemented. Interlocking criminal trafficking organizations, well financed and heavily armed, continued to produce and smuggle enormous quantities of heroin and cocaine, according to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in its annual report. On the positive side, surveys in a number of countries showed stabilization or a decline in the abuse of certain illicit drugs.

The United Nations undertook several measures to intensify the international fight against drug abuse. Various programmes and organs were integrated into the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, based at Vienna, whose Executive Director was given the exclusive responsibility for coordinating and providing effective leadership for all drug control activities. The General Assembly adopted four resolutions dealing with drug abuse control. The Economic and Social Council adopted 11 resolutions related to the issue, 10 of which were recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs-the principal policy-making body of the United Nations on drug control issues. INCB continued its overall supervision of the implementation of drug control treaties as well as its comprehensive survey of the drug control situation worldwide.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XVII (742-748)**

##### **Statistics**

The United Nations Statistical Commission in 1991 stressed the increasing importance of environment statistics, which were needed to support policies and programmes, and endorsed the work on development indicators and the qualitative aspects of development undertaken by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. As to the proposed programme of work for 1992-1993, the Commission expressed concern about the review process, the instructions given and the format and terminology used, and requested that a more simple format be used in the future.

The Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination made recommendations on improving the compilation and dissemination in a wide range of statistical areas, while the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination reviewed the provisional agenda for the Commission's 1993 session.

In July, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1991/94 on patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development. It noted that a meeting of experts on social development indicators had been held in Morocco in April; requested the Secretary-General to organize another meeting to advance further the work on the indicators; and requested the regional commissions to organize workshops aimed at disseminating the concept of qualitative indicators of development.

### **Part three: Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XVIII (749-773)**

##### **Institutional arrangements**

The General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in 1990 had adopted a resolution on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. The Assembly endorsed a resolution of the Economic and Social Council on the revitalization of the Council, in which its President was given a mandate to undertake consultations with Member States on that matter.

The Assembly adopted resolution 45/264 in May 1991, by which it approved basic principles and guidelines for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations, including the Council, and issues to be addressed in the future.

Within the context of this reform process, the Council considered its revitalization at its second regular session of 1991 and took note of an oral report by its President on all relevant issues pertaining to the review of the implementation of the measures agreed upon for its revitalization (decision 1991/277).

The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and the yearly Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC continued their efforts to improve existing mechanisms of coordination and to proceed effectively with the implementation of system-wide programmes and action plans.

The conclusions and recommendations of CPC at its 1991 session were endorsed by the Council (resolution 1991/67), which also stressed the central role of ACC in the coordination of activities of the United Nations system at the intersecretariat level, and by the General Assembly (resolution 46/189, sections VI and VII).

In keeping with the established practice of promoting complementarity between the work of the Council and the Assembly's Second (Economic and Financial) and Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committees, the Assembly approved the Second and Third Committee's biennial work programme for 1992-1993 (decision 46/455 and resolution 46/140, respectively).

Following the biennial session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOS) and the Council's granting of consultative status to 35 new applicants in May (decision 1991/216), the number of NGOs in consultative status with the Council rose to 928.



## **Part four: Trusteeship and decolonization**

### **Chapter I (777-809)**

#### **Questions relating to decolonization**

During 1991, decolonization, based on the General Assembly's 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, continued to be an issue considered by the United Nations. The main body dealing with the subject was the 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). It examined the decolonization issue in general as well as individual Non-Self-governing Territories. The Assembly, as recommended by the Committee, adopted resolutions dealing with, inter alia, decolonization in general (46/68 A), 10 small Territories (46/68 B), and the question of New Caledonia (46/69). It also adopted a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (1990-2000) (46/181).

After consultations with the parties concerned, the Secretary-General formulated a plan for holding a referendum in Western Sahara. The Security Council approved the plan in April (resolution 690(1991)) but, as at the end of the year, the parties were in disagreement over the terms of the settlement plan and the process was held in abeyance.

## **Part four: Trusteeship and decolonization**

### **Chapter II (810-813)**

#### **International Trusteeship System**

During 1991, progress was made towards self-government in the last Trust Territory under the International Trusteeship System-the Republic of Palau, a strategic territory administered by the United States-after the Security Council, by resolution 683(1990), had terminated the Trusteeship Agreement for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. Palau continued to be supervised by the Trusteeship Council on behalf of the Security Council.

The Trusteeship Council, composed of China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, held its fifty-eighth regular session in New York between 3 May and 19 December. It held its twenty-first special session, also in New York, on 19 December. During the year it considered the Administering Authority's annual report, heard five petitioners, and examined 24 written petitions and 11 communications regarding the Territory.

## **Part five: Legal questions**

### **Chapter I (817-821)**

#### **International Court of Justice**

In 1991, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) continued to deal with eight contentious cases. Four new disputes were referred to it, and one case was removed from the Court's list. The Court delivered in 1991 one Judgment and nine Orders.

The General Assembly and the Security Council, independently of one another, held elections to fill a vacancy in the Court created by the death on 14 August 1991 of a Judge. On 5 December, by General Assembly decision 46/315, and in accordance with Security Council resolution 708(1991), Bola Ajibola (Nigeria) was elected as a Judge of ICJ.

In October, Estonia deposited with the Secretary-General a declaration recognizing as compulsory the jurisdiction of the Court, as contemplated by Article 36 of the ICJ Statute.

The President of the Court, in addressing the General Assembly on 8 November, outlined the future role of the Court.

## **Part five: Legal questions**

### **Chapter II (822-826)**

#### **Legal aspects of international political relations**

In 1991, the General Assembly continued its efforts to develop and strengthen good-neighbourliness between States. It expressed the conviction that good-neighbourliness was best fostered by each State respecting the rule of law in its international relations, and by practical measures designed to promote good relations with other States (resolution 46/62).

The Assembly condemned all acts of terrorism, called on States to fulfil their obligations under international law to refrain from terrorist acts and urged them to take effective measures for the elimination of international terrorism. Further, it called for the release of all hostages and abducted persons, and called on States to use their political influence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to secure their release (resolution 46/51).

The Assembly brought the draft articles on most-favoured-nation clauses to the attention of Member States and interested intergovernmental organizations (decision 46/416).

The International Law Commission provisionally adopted complete sets of draft articles on the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind and on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses.

## **Part five: Legal questions**

### **Chapter III (827-832)**

#### **States and international law**

The General Assembly decided, in December 1991, to examine, during its forty-seventh (1992) session, a proposal for an additional protocol on consular functions to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (resolution 46/61). It expressed satisfaction at the useful consultations held at its forty-sixth session on the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and the draft optional protocols thereto, and decided to resume the consultations at its forty-seventh session (46/57). The Assembly expressed appreciation to the International Law Commission for its adoption in 1991 of draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property and decided to establish, at its forty-seventh session, a working group of the Sixth (Legal) Committee to facilitate a successful conclusion of a convention (46/55).

The International Law Commission (see PART FIVE, Chapter V) continued to elaborate on the international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law, and on relations between States and international organizations. However, it did not consider in 1991, due to a lack of time, State responsibility.

The Secretariat continued its depositary functions for agreements, conventions and treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

## **Part five: Legal questions**

### **Chapter IV (833-840)**

#### **Law of the sea**

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea continued in 1991 to set the legal standards for the use of the world's seas and oceans. During the year, the number of parties to the Convention increased to 51.

The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, at its ninth session, approved the applications of China and a five-State consortium-Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the USSR-for registration as pioneer investors in the international seabed "Area" (the seabed beyond national jurisdiction), bringing the number of pioneer investors to six.

In December, the General Assembly, by resolution 46/78, called on all States that had not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention and to observe its provisions when enacting national legislation. It urged States with advanced marine capabilities to review relevant policies and programmes in the context of integrating the marine sector in national development strategies and to explore prospects for intensifying cooperation with developing States.

## **Part five: Legal questions**

### **Chapter V (841-855)**

#### **Other legal questions**

In 1991, the United Nations continued to work on various aspects of international law and international economic law.

The International Law Commission continued to work on the progressive development and codification of international law. It concluded consideration of jurisdictional immunities of States and provisionally adopted complete sets of draft articles on the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind and on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses.

Legal aspects of international economic law and the new international economic order continued to be considered by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law [UNCITRAL) and by the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly. At its twenty-fourth session, UN C ITRAL focused on a draft Model Law on International Credit Transfers, which was adopted by its Working Group on International Payments. The Assembly took note of the adoption, in 1991, of the United Nations Convention on the Liability of Operators of Transport Terminals in International Trade. It repeated its invitation to States which had not done so to sign, ratify or accede to the conventions elaborated under the auspices of the Commission (resolution 46/56 A).

A working group of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization completed its work on a draft Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of Peace and Security, which the General Assembly subsequently approved (resolution 46/59).

## **Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions**

### **Chapter I (859-890)**

#### **United Nations financing and programming**

The General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions in 1991 relating to the financing of the United Nations. In December, a budget totalling \$2,402,578,800 gross (\$2,389,234,900 net) was agreed on to cover operational expenses of the Organization for the next two years (46/186 A). At the same time, the Assembly approved final income estimates for the 1992-1993 biennium of \$449,213,300, and specified that \$1,228,519,850 of the upcoming biennial appropriations be set aside for 1992 alone (46/186 B and C). A number of questions relating to the 1992-1993 programme budget were also addressed by the Assembly (46/185 A, B and C).

The Secretary-General informed the Assembly that the financial crisis of the United Nations continued unabated throughout the year. A number of Member States had withheld their annual assessments to the budget of the Organization, which, under the Charter of the United Nations they were obligated to pay in full and on time. A number of peace-keeping operations over the past four years had placed even further strains on the situation. Of the \$1,365.7 million in contributions to the United Nations regular budget payable as at 1 January 1991 (including payments for the current and prior years), \$926.3 million had been collected from Member States as of 31 December, leaving \$439.9 million outstanding.

In 1991, the Secretary-General outlined a number of proposals aimed at easing the problem. However, he repeatedly stressed that prompt and full payment of assessments was vital to achieving a long-term solution.

A machine scale of assessments, a method to determine the amount of payments due to the regular budget from each Member State, was agreed by the Assembly for 1992, 1993 and 1994, as prepared by the Committee on Contributions (46/221 A). Using the capacity to pay as the main criterion for determining the scale, the Committee's calculations took into account data on national income, population and monetary exchange rates of Member States for the period 1980-1989. Information was also used regarding the external debt of countries eligible for debt relief adjustment.

The Committee on Contributions was requested to continue improving the methodology for future scales, paying special attention to the scheme of limits (used to minimize wide fluctuations between successive scales), the application of the price-adjusted rate of currency exchange, and the current 10-year base period used for statistical averages (46/221 B, C and D).

A net increase to the 1990-1991 programme budget of \$15 million was also adopted by the Assembly, bringing the total net requirements for that biennium to \$1,767,318,300. The increase consisted of \$33,902,400 more in expenditures, which was offset by an \$18,902,400 rise in income. The Secretary General was authorized to enter into commitments for an additional \$13,867,100, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (46/184).

The Assembly established the Working Capital Fund for 1992-1993 at the level of \$100 million. As in past years, it was to be used by the United Nations to finance appropriations pending receipt of assessed contributions and to pay unforeseen costs (46/188).

The accounts and financial statements for either the year or the biennium ending 31 December 1990 for six United Nations development and humanitarian assistance programmes were accepted by the General Assembly in 1991, along with the audit opinions of the United Nations Board of Auditors (46/183).

In addition, the Assembly adopted resolutions related to programme planning (46/189), unforeseen expenses (46/187) and the rationalization of the work of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee.



Decisions were taken on subjects related to accounting standards for the Organization and its specialized agencies (46/445), the Joint Inspection Unit (46/446), the report of the Economic and Social Council (46/447), the effects of inflation on the budget of the Organization (46/451), the review of the efficiency of the United Nations (46/467), and revised estimates for the 1990-1991 budget (46/452).

In June 1991, the Assembly adopted a resolution during its resumed forty-fifth session relating to the administrative and budgetary aspects of financing United Nations peace-keeping operations (45/258).

## **Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions**

### **Chapter II (891-913)**

#### **United Nations officials**

In 1991, the Secretary-General continued his efforts to improve staff distribution with regard to nationality and gender, as well as to improve the status of women in the Secretariat. Although there was a slight rise in the percentage of women in senior-level positions, the situation was far from encouraging. Both the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1991/17) and the General Assembly (resolution 46/100) urged the Secretary-General to accord greater priority to the recruitment and promotion of women.

The International Civil Service Commission, the independent technical body responsible to the Assembly for the regulation and coordination of conditions of service for staff of the United Nations common system, made several recommendations to the Assembly, including a revised scale of salaries, as well as pensionable remuneration and the comparator civil service. The Assembly acted on those recommendations in resolution 46/19. Based on recommendations of the Pension Board, the Assembly, by resolution 46/192, approved certain changes in the pension adjustment system, including determination of the base amounts, cost-of-living differential factors, and disability and survivors' benefits. Increases in the emoluments of top-echelon officials such as honoraria, representation allowance and remuneration for members of the Joint Inspection Unit, were recommended by the Secretary-General; the Assembly, however, deferred their consideration.

The high number of cases of arrest and detention of United Nations staff remained, according to a report of the Secretary-General on behalf of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. Other violations of privileges and immunities of United Nations officials were also noted.

Despite the continued trend towards a substantial increase in the number of cases before the Administrative Review Unit and the Headquarters Joint Appeals Board, the reformed system of administration of justice in the Secretariat worked reasonably well.

An evaluation of the system of staff and representative travel was recommended by the Assembly.

As the Assembly retained on its agenda the item on personnel questions for discussion at its resumed forty-sixth session in 1992, several of the above issues were not considered in 1991.

## **Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions**

### **Chapter III (914-926)**

#### **Other administrative and management questions**

During 1991, the Committee on Conferences examined ways in which the use of conference resources could be made more effective within the United Nations system. It also considered a study on the improved utilization of conference-servicing resources and improved organization of work, the possibility of central planning and coordination of all organizational aspects of conference servicing, the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council for 1992-1993 and the procedures with regard to inter-sessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences.

In December, the General Assembly approved the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the 1992-1993 biennium (resolution 46/190).

Action was taken by the Assembly on a number of questions related to the 1992-1993 programme budget (46/185 A and B), including budget estimates for the International Computing Centre at Geneva; translation and interpretation services for the Economic Commission for Africa; administration and unified conference services at the United Nations offices at Vienna; the construction of conference facilities at Bangkok, Thailand, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; publications policy; the workload of committees; and implementation of technological innovations. An agreement on the establishment of a new United Nations Information Centre at Windhoek, Namibia, was signed in August.

The need for access of Member States to United Nations informatics systems was underscored in an Economic and Social Council resolution (1991/70), by which the Secretary-General was also requested to study the problem and outline a solution.

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter L (929-935)**

#### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

In 1991, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to foster peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the exchange of scientific and technical information, to establish and administer safeguards, to provide technical assistance to its member States and to establish health and safety standards.

The Security Council, by resolution 687(1991), requested IAEA to carry out immediate on-site inspections of Iraq's nuclear capabilities and to develop and carry out a plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of all nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapons-usable materials, any subsystems or components, or any research, development, support or manufacturing facilities related thereto. On the basis of the on-site inspections in Iraq, the IAEA Board of Governors was, for the first time, obliged to declare that a member State was failing to comply with its safeguards obligations (For details of IAEA'S activities in Iraq, see PART TWO, Chapter III).

The Board of Governors of IAEA, at its thirty-fifth General Conference (Vienna, 16-20 September), drafted a resolution calling on the Board of Governors and the Director General to continue to maintain and strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system in accordance with the Agency's statute. The Board of Governors considered the issues of special inspections, safeguards in nuclear-weapon States and in the design of facilities, and universal reporting of exports of nuclear material.

The IAEA General Conference also adopted several resolutions to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear safety and radiological protection and the sharing of safety-related information including those on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, on Iraq's noncompliance with its safeguards obligations, on Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat, on South Africa's nuclear capabilities and on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which entered into force in 1987.<sup>a</sup>

IAEA membership remained at 112 in 1991 (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter II (936-940)**

#### **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

In 1991, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) continued activities in its six major programme areas: promotion of policies to create employment and satisfy basic human needs; development of human resources; improvement of working and living conditions and environment; promotion of social security; strengthening of industrial relations and tripartite (government/employer/worker) cooperation; and the advancement of human rights in the social and labour fields. The main instruments of action continued to be standard setting, technical cooperation activities, research and publishing.

Albania, Latvia, Lithuania and the Republic of Korea joined ILO, bringing total membership to 152 (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter III (941-946)**

#### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

The twenty-sixth biennial session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Rome, Italy, 9-27 November 1991) approved FAO's programme of work and budget for 1992-1993 and adopted resolutions on various aspects of food, agriculture and rural development.

Major themes of the 1991 Conference were the world food and agriculture situation, the environment and sustainable development, and people's participation in rural development.

The Conference noted that world food and agricultural production in 1991 was expected to fall below the previous year's level, representing the first global decline since 1983. This was attributed to a marked reduction in cereal and soybean crops, with only a modest expansion of livestock production in North America; sharply reduced wheat crops in Australia; unfavourable weather affecting summer crops in China, where agricultural production was estimated to have fallen by 2 per cent and cereals nearly 3 per cent below the previous year's harvest; and a further decline of about 9 per cent in agricultural production in the USSR.

The Conference adopted a Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development to encourage institution-building and grass-roots decision-making in development. The Plan called for increased public awareness and the introduction of legislation and reforms to intensify cooperation between Governments and people's organizations. It recommended the free association of rural people in organizations of their choice and appealed for efforts to decentralize public administration and decision-making. The Plan advocated national policies to promote more equitable access to resources and services for the rural population, especially the poor, and legal protection, equal rights and full membership in people's organizations for women and other disadvantaged groups.

The Conference considered the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development, which called for women's increased access to income, credit, education and decision-making. Since the Plan's approval at the 1989 Conference, FAO had made efforts to include women's interests in its fieldwork and hire more women professionals.

The Conference reviewed the implementation of the 1985 International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and progress on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Clause, by which the Code was amended and which was expected to become fully instrumental in January 1992. As of that date, each valid notification of a ban or severe restriction of a pesticide by a participating Government would trigger the PIC procedure, implementation of which was to be monitored jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A joint FAO/UNEP expert group continued to monitor progress in PIC implementation.

The Conference reviewed the second progress report on implementation of the FAO Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, endorsed by an FAO conference in 1984.<sup>a</sup> It noted with satisfaction that the fisheries sector continued to make increasing contributions towards the achievement of food security; it pointed out, however, that despite those positive trends, many countries still faced constraints to expanding fisheries output.

The Conference underlined the importance of training and transfer of appropriate technologies. It agreed that environment and sustainability in fisheries, integrated coastal area management, removal of trade barriers and development of national research capacities, among other issues, should be given greater emphasis. It urged further assistance to developing countries, particularly in Africa, to expand their marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture, the latter becoming more and more important in meeting rising food demands.

The Conference admitted four new members: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the European Economic Community (EEC), bringing total membership of FAO to 161 (see Annex I). EEC became the first regional economic integration organization to become a member of an intergovernmental organization; it was to participate in FAO meetings within its competence and vote on behalf of its members. Puerto Rico entered FAO in 1991 as an associate member. A request for admission from South Africa was deferred until the next (1993) Conference. The Conference elected the chairman and members of the Council (see Annex II).

**Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

**Chapter IV (947-952)**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1991 continued its activities of promoting cooperation among nations in the educational, scientific, cultural and communication spheres. The twenty-sixth annual session of UNESCO's governing body, the General Conference, was held at the Organization's headquarters in Paris (15 October-7 November).

The General Conference approved the budget for the 1992-1993 biennium in the amount of \$444,704,000 under the regular budget and an estimated \$274,875,500 in extrabudgetary funds. It also amended Article V of the Constitution such that the Executive Board shall consist of member States instead of individual persons with effect from the end of the twenty-seventh session of the General Conference (1993). The Executive Board also took steps to improve and streamline its work, considerably shortening its sessions.

In 1991, the membership of UNESCO increased to 163 with the admission of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Tuvalu (For membership of UNESCO and its Executive Board, see Annexes I and II).



## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter V (953-959)**

#### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

The World Health Assembly, the governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO), at its forty-fourth annual session (Geneva, 6-16 May 1991), approved an effective working budget level of \$734.9 million for the 1992-1993 biennium. In discussing WHO's policy for the biennium, the Assembly endorsed five priority areas identified by the WHO Director-General: the health of man in a changing environment; proper food and nutrition for a healthy life; integrated disease control as part of overall health care and human development; dissemination of information for advocacy and for educational, managerial and scientific purposes; and intensified health development action in, and support to, countries most in need.

The Assembly adopted resolutions calling for the elimination of leprosy and dracunculiasis (Guinea-worm disease) as public health problems by the year 2000. It urged renewed action against tuberculosis, cholera and acute respiratory infections. Increased efforts were pledged for emergency relief, the health of refugees, the urban crisis, the development of new vaccines for children and matters specifically linking women, health and development. The theme of the technical discussions held during the Assembly was "Strategies for health for all in the face of rapid urbanization". The Assembly endorsed the Guiding Principles on Human Organ Transplantation, developed through an international project involving external experts and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOS.) (For details of WHO's activities on human organ transplantation, including the text of the Guiding Principles, see *Human Organ Transplantation: a Report on Developments under the Auspices of WHO (1987-1191)*, published by WHO, Geneva.)

During 1991, the membership of WHO rose to 170, with one associate member, with the admission of Latvia, Lithuania, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia as members, and Tokelau as an associate member (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter VI (1960-1965)**

#### **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)**

During the fiscal year 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) and its affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA), continued to provide economic assistance to developing countries in order to raise their living standards. In fiscal 1991, the Bank adopted a comprehensive long-term strategy to address the protracted challenge of poverty reduction. The strategy-designed to make sure that the poor gained from growth and contributed to it-would ensure that all assistance programmes undertaken by the Bank were specifically geared to reducing poverty. The first part of the strategy encouraged broadly based economic growth through the productive use of abundant labour on the developing countries, while the second required investment in social services, especially basic education and health, family planning and nutrition, to improve living conditions and increase the capacity of the poor to respond to income-earning opportunities arising from economic growth.

Total commitments by the Bank, credit approvals from IDA and investment commitments from a second affiliate, the International Finance Corporation, totalled \$25,532 million.

Membership in the Bank rose to 156 in 1991 with the admission of Mongolia on 14 February and Albania on 16 October (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter VII (966-971)**

#### **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), established in 1956, furthers economic growth in developing member countries by promoting private sector investments. IFC is a member of the World Bank Group, which also includes the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the International Development Association and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. However, IFC operates independently with its own Articles of Agreement, shareholders, management, staff and financial structure. Its share capital is provided by its member countries, which collectively also determine its policies and activities. In addition, it raises most of the funds for its lending activities through bond issues in the international financial markets and from returns on profitable investments.

IFC shares full project risks with its partners, enabling it to play an important role in mobilizing additional project funding from other investors and lenders, either through co-financing or loan syndications, underwritings and guarantees. In addition to project finance and resource mobilization, IFC provides advisory services and technical assistance to private businesses and Governments in developing countries in order to create an environment hospitable to private investment.

During the fiscal year ending 30 June 1991, IFC approved loans and investments totalling \$1.5 billion from its own account, in addition to \$1.3 billion in loan syndications and \$33 million in underwritings, for 152 projects in a broad range of sectors and industries, including banking and financial services, tourism, mining, petrochemicals, electricity, oil and gas exploration and development, telecommunications, agrobusiness, and general manufacturing. The projects approved had total costs of \$10.7 billion.

The Corporation disbursed \$1.2 billion in loans, equity, and quasi-equity investments during the year. The disbursed portfolio grew by 20 per cent over the fiscal year to \$4,300 million at 30 June 1991.

IFC's net income for the year reached \$166 million, representing a return on its net worth of 8.4 per cent. It made five successful borrowings in international financial markets, raising a total of \$598 million. In view of its triple-A rating, IFC was able to raise those funds at highly favourable rates.

During the 1991 fiscal year, Algeria, the Central African Republic, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia, Namibia and Romania joined IFC, bringing its membership to 141 countries (see Annex I). To support the expansion of its operations and increase its presence in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America, IFC opened regional missions in Cameroon and Zimbabwe as well as resident missions in Brazil, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. It also created a new position-Capital Markets Regional Representative for Central and Eastern Europe-based in Prague, Czechoslovakia. It further reorganized its investment structure to create new departments specifically for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter VIII (972-975)**

#### **International Development Association (IDA)**

The International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960 as an affiliate of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), provides assistance for the same purposes as the Bank, but primarily to the poorer developing countries and on easier terms. During 1991, IDA'S assistance concentrated on countries with an annual per capita gross national product of less than \$580 (in 1989 dollars).

The funds used by IDA-called credits to distinguish them from World Bank loans-come mostly from subscriptions, general replenishments from its more industrialized and developed members and transfers from the Bank's net earnings. Credits are made only to Governments, have 10-year grace periods and 35or 40year maturities and are interest-free.

During the year, IDA approved 103 credits amounting to 4.55 billion special drawing rights (SDR).

Fiscal year 1991 marked the beginning of the commitment period of the ninth replenishment of IDA resources (IDA-9). Donor contributions to IDA-9, amounting to SDR 11.7 billion, were to finance commitments to IDA borrowers in fiscal years 1991-1993. The replenishment became effective on 23 January 1991, when Instruments of Commitments-the formal notification of participation in the replenishment-received from donors reached 80 per cent of the total contributions to IDA-9 from contributing members.

Prior to the replenishment's effectiveness, credit approvals were financed through commitment authority provided under the Advance Contribution Scheme. That Scheme became operational on 19 July 1990, when IDA received Instruments of Commitments from 10 donors (Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, Yugoslavia) whose contributions aggregated 20 per cent of the IDA-9 total. During the course of the fiscal year, IDA received Instruments of Commitments from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In 1991, membership of IDA rose to 140 following the admission of Mongolia on 14 February and Albania on 16 October (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter IX (1976-1980)**

#### **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

During fiscal year 1991 (1 May 1990 to 30 April 1991), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assisted member countries to cope with the impact of events in the Persian Gulf and related developments in world oil prices, restructuring in Eastern Europe and reunification in Germany, as well as the continuing debt crisis of the developing countries.

During the year, IMF continued to fulfil its mandate for surveillance of the international monetary system, particularly of the exchange-rate policies of its member States, by examining each member's policies and performance and through regular discussions of the world economic outlook. The scope of surveillance had broadened in response to changes in the domestic and external environment of members and to recognition of the impact structural developments might have on the economic performance of countries concerned. The focus of IMF surveillance was also changing, with the growing liberalization of centrally planned economies and their integration into the international market and the movement towards economic integration of member countries.

IMF held regular consultations with each member country, which allowed it to appraise the country's overall economic situation and policies, discuss policy options and make recommendations. During 1991, IMF reversed a five-year downward trend, by increasing the number of consultations to 119, covering 74 per cent of the membership, compared with 108 consultations involving 69 per cent in 1990.

At the end of 1991, IMF membership increased to 156 with the admission of Albania and Mongolia (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter X (1981-1984)**

#### **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) facilitates the safety and efficiency of civil air transport. As an intergovernmental regulatory organization, its objectives are set down in annexes to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago, United States, 1944), which prescribe standards, recommended practices and procedures for facilitating civil aviation operations.

In 1991, scheduled traffic of the world's airlines fell to some 227 billion tonne-kilometres, the first year of decline since airline statistics were first recorded by ICAO in 1945. The airlines carried more than 1.1 billion passengers, 3.5 per cent less than in 1990. As the number of seats offered decreased by a lower rate than passengers carried, the estimated passenger load factor declined from 68 to 66 per cent. Air freight decreased by 4 per cent to 56.5 billion tonne-kilometres. Airmail traffic also decreased by 4 per cent.

During the year, the ICAC Council held three regular sessions. In June, it approved the establishment of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group to ensure the continuous and coherent development of the Asia and Pacific regional plans and to propose action aimed at solving air navigation problems. The Group's first meeting was to be held in April 1992. In December, the Council adopted the ICAO Code of Conduct for the Regulation and Operation of Computer Reservation Systems as the recommended basis for Contracting States to regulate the operations of computer reservation systems in their territories.

In 1991, membership of ICAO rose to 164 with the admission of Albania, Belize and Namibia. (See Annex I for complete membership).

**Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

**Chapter XI (985-986)**

**Universal Postal Union (UPU)**

The Universal Postal Union (UPU), established in 1874 at Berne, Switzerland, serves to exchange postal services among nations. It promotes the organization and improvement of postal services and development of international collaboration in this area. At the request of its members, it participates in various forms of postal technical assistance.

In 1991, UPU membership remained unchanged at 168 (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter XII (1987-1990)**

#### **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

In 1991, the Administrative Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) held its forty-sixth annual session from 27 May to 7 June. The Council adopted a budget for 1992 totalling SwF 144,145,000, or \$196,037,200 (as at 31 December, \$US 1.00 = SwF 1.36). That total included the regular budget for the Union, the Technical Cooperation special accounts and the supplementary publications budget. The Council also considered the reports on the activities of the Union and reviewed a number of financial and administrative matters. It discussed the final report of the High Level Committee (HLC) established to review the structure and functioning of ITU, endorsed some of its recommendations, and transmitted them to the Secretary-General.

The Council decided to convene an additional Plenipotentiary Conference, to be held in Geneva in 1992. In preparation for the Conference, the Council established a drafting group of experts who would elaborate draft texts for the revision of the Nice Constitution and Convention, based on the recommendations of the HLC report. In addition, the Council decided to close the Centre for Telecommunications Development by the end of 1991 and integrate its functions into the structure of the Telecommunications Development Bureau (BDT).

During 1991, the membership of ITU rose from 164 to 166, with Lithuania and Latvia becoming members effective 12 October and 11 November, respectively. On 24 December, the rights and obligations of the former USSR were assumed by the Russian Federation (see Annex I).



## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter XIII (1991-1997)**

#### **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

In 1991, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) carried out its activities in accordance with the programmes and budget adopted in 1987 for the period 1988-1991 by its highest governing body, the World Meteorological Congress, which meets at least once every four years.

The Congress held its eleventh session (Geneva, 1-23 May 1991) and adopted the programme and budget of the organization for the period 1992-1995. It reappointed G. O. P. Obasi (Nigeria) as the WMO Secretary-General for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1992.

The Congress adopted the third WMO long-term plan for 1992-2001, reflecting the importance of major new issues relating to climate change and the environment. It adopted a new Public Weather Services Programme and the WMO Plan of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000). The Congress established the Global Climate Observing System, sponsored initially by WMO, the International Council of Scientific Unions, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The 36-member Executive Council meets annually to supervise the implementation of programmes and regulations and in 1991 it held its forty-third session (Geneva, 24-29 May).

The membership of WMO as at 31 December 1991 remained at 155 States and 5 Territories (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter XIV (998-1001)**

#### **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

In 1991, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) held the seventeenth session of its biennial Assembly (London, 28 October-8 November), at which it adopted a number of resolutions, 38 of which dealt with maritime safety. The 135-member Assembly adopted the 1992-1993 IMO budget and approved the work programme for that period. It elected a new 32-member IMO Council—the organization's governing body between Assembly sessions (see Annex II).

To help restore the organization's financial stability, the Assembly approved a change to the system of apportioning expenses among member States. Previously, 90 per cent of a member State's contribution was based on its shipping tonnage and the remaining 10 per cent was related to the level of its United Nations contribution. The Assembly agreed that the 90-to-10 proportion should be changed to 12.5 to 87.5. The effect was that contributions paid by some countries—especially developing countries—were reduced by as much as 30 per cent, while the contributions of some of the richer countries increased. The Assembly agreed that IMO's financial framework would be reviewed in four years.

Resolutions adopted by the Assembly included three submitted by the IMO Secretary-General relating to maritime safety. One of them, which dealt with the safety of ships carrying solid bulk cargoes, expressed concern at the continued loss of such ships and listed a number of actions to be taken by IMO, Governments, classification societies, shipowners, shipmasters and others. The second was intended to improve regional cooperation in the control of ships and discharges by port States, and the third was aimed at improving international coordination in matters relating to dangerous goods and hazardous substances.

The Assembly revised guidelines adopted in 1989 for the management and safe operation of ships and for pollution prevention and adopted procedures for the control of on-board operational requirements relating to safety and pollution. It adopted a number of new codes, including a Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing; a Code of Safe Practice for Ships Carrying Timber Deck Cargoes, replacing a code adopted in 1973; and a Code on Alarms and Indicators.

The largest group of resolutions concerned the entry into force on 1 February 1992 of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). Those resolutions were intended to help Governments and others implement the GMDSS as effectively as possible.

Resolutions dealing with marine pollution encouraged the development of new tanker designs to reduce the amount of oil pollution resulting from accidents, listed various measures to be taken to reduce air pollution from ships, and established target dates for reducing or eliminating pollution by substances such as chlorofluorocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons, exhaust gases and volatile organic compounds.

Guidelines for the designation of Special Areas under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the 1978 Protocol (MARPOL 73/78), and the identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas were adopted.

Another resolution emphasized IMO's role in environmental matters and recommended that the IMO Secretary-General ensure the active participation of the secretariat in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992).

The Assembly agreed to amend the IMO Convention and institutionalize the Facilitation Committee by raising it to the same status as other bodies such as the Maritime Safety Committee. The Committee's task was to reduce formalities hindering international maritime trade.

IMO membership rose to 135 with the acceptance of the IMO Convention by Luxembourg (see Annex I).

Two treaties designed to combat terrorism and other unlawful acts against shipping fulfilled requirements on 2 December for entry into force-the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988, and Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf. Both instruments were to enter into force on 1 March 1992.

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter XV (1002-1006)**

#### **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

In 1991, the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) General Assembly, its governing body and the Unions administered by it held their twenty-second session at Geneva (23 September-2 October). The number of States parties to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property rose to 103 with the accession of Chile, the Gambia and Swaziland. The number of States parties to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works rose to 90 with the accession of Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Paraguay and Zambia. Argentina and Spain became parties to the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations, bringing the number of contracting States to 37. Greece became party to the Brussels Convention Relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite, bringing the number of contracting States to 14. At the end of the year, the number of States parties to the Convention establishing WIPO and to the various treaties administered by WIPO was 135.

The 17 treaties in the two main fields of intellectual property administered by WIPO in 1991 are listed below in order of year of adoption:

Industrial property: Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property; Madrid Agreement for the Repression of False or Deceptive Indications of Source on Goods; Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks; The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs; Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks; Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and Their International Registration; Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs; Patent Cooperation Treaty; Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification; Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure; Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol; Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks.

Copyright and neighbouring rights: Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works; Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations; Geneva Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms Against Unauthorized Duplication of Their Phonograms; Brussels Convention Relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite; Treaty on the International Registration of Audiovisual Works. During 1991, the membership of WIPO increased to 127 with the accession of Namibia and San Marion (see Annex I). (For WIPO's governing body see Annex II).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter XVI (1007-1009)**

#### **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) continued to provide concessional assistance for financing agricultural projects in developing countries. During the year, countries receiving IFAD assistance increased to 94. The fund aimed at increasing food production, reducing malnutrition and alleviating rural poverty. It continued to concentrate on low-income, food-deficit countries which received most of IFAD's lending, and on providing the poorest farmers with the necessary production means and institutional support. Particular emphasis was given to restoring the agricultural capacity of sub-Saharan African countries. IFAD also paid special attention to the issues of women in development (for which four donor Governments had provided special funding of \$1.12 million by 1991), cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the environment.

Membership of IFAD rose to 145 with the admission of Namibia. Of the current member countries, 22 were in Category I (developed countries), 12 in Category II (oil-exporting developing countries) and 111 in Category III (other developing countries).

The fourteenth session of the Governing Council of IFAD (Rome, 29-30 May) adopted a budget for 1991 of \$49.8 million plus a contingency of \$1.4 million. It approved by acclamation the reclassification of the membership of Portugal from that of a member of Category III to that of a member of Category I. In other action, the council elected Argentina and Pakistan as new members of the Executive Board, and Mexico and Turkey as new alternate members for the period ending January 1994. It also approved an arrangement under which Luxembourg would replace Belgium as alternate member of the Executive Board from the end of the fifteenth session of the Governing Council in January 1992 until the end of the sixteenth session in January 1993.

The Governing Council decided to establish a second phase of the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification (SPA) and appealed to all members in a position to do so to contribute generously to the second phase for three years, bearing in mind the level of resources mobilized for the first phase and its successful implementation. In that respect, the council authorized the Executive Board and the President of IFAD to begin operations and to implement the second phase in accordance with the basic framework as amended.

The IFAD Executive Board held three regular sessions in 1991 (April, September and December), approving 23 loans for 22 projects, including two loans under SPA. At each of its regular sessions, the Board reviewed a number of operational matters, including IFAD's Evolving Approaches to Environmentally Sustainable Rural Poverty Alleviation, its Strategy for the Economic Advancement of Poor Rural Women and its Evolving Policy towards Grant Financing of Agricultural Research.

In financial matters, the Board reviewed reports on the management of IFAD's Investment Portfolio, approved a transfer of \$5 million to the General Reserve for 1991 and approved the fourteenth drawdown of members' contributions in 1991 in two tranches of a maximum of \$186 million.

The Board approved a programme of work at a level of special drawing rights (SDRs) 235 million for loans, grants and project-related activities and services to member States under the Regular Programme in 1992, and endorsed a budget of \$53 million, plus a contingency of \$0.9 million. It also approved the programme of work and estimated administrative expenditures of SPA for 1992 of SDR 40 million and \$5.57 million respectively, including a contingency of \$150,000.

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter XVII (1010-1015)**

#### **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

In 1991, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) continued its activities in the areas of industrial operations, strategies and promotion. In addition, its special programmes calling for multidisciplinary or interdepartmental approaches were designed to support industrial growth and restructuring and included the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs), industrial cooperation among developing countries, integration of women in industrial development, cooperation with industrial enterprises and non-governmental organizations (NGO s), environment and private sector development.

A greater commitment by the international community to Third-World industrialization was stressed at the fourth session of the General Conference, which took place at Vienna from 18 to 22 November. Attended by 132 countries and some 600 delegates, the Conference looked ahead to new possibilities for mobilizing increased resources for industrialization in the wake of the end of the Cold War and dealt with topics including industrialization of LDCs, new concepts and approaches for cooperation in industrial development, mobilization of financial resources and the 1992-1993 programmes and budget.

As at 31 December 1991, 154 States were members of UNIDO (see Annex I).

## **Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations**

### **Chapter XVIII (1016-1020)**

#### **Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (ICITO) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment (Havana, Cuba, November 1947-March 1948) drew up a charter for an International Trade Organization (ITO) and established an Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (ICITO). The charter was never accepted and ITO was never established. While drawing up the charter, members of the Preparatory Committee negotiated tariffs among themselves and drew up the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which entered into force on 1 January 1948 with 23 Contracting Parties. Since then, ICITO has provided the GATT secretariat.

GATT is a multilateral instrument that sets out reciprocal rights and obligations for international trade. The governing body of GATT, the Session of Contracting Parties, usually meets once a year; its forty-seventh session was held on 3-4 December at Geneva.

During 1991, the number of Contracting Parties to GATT rose to 103 with the addition of El Salvador, Guatemala and Macau (see Annex I). The Contracting Parties accounted for about 90 per cent of all international trade; 28 other countries to whose territories GATT had been applied before their independence maintained a de facto application of GATT pending final decisions as to their future commercial policy. In addition, a number of countries, including some in Central and Eastern Europe, had expressed interest in GATT membership, and some had adopted GATT-based guidelines for their evolving trade regimes.