

English
Express

The Yearbook of the United Nations
Yearbook Express

Yearbook of the United Nations

1996





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, 1996

Volume 50

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fiftieth session of the General Assembly was marked by the largest ever gathering of world leaders during a three-day special commemorative meeting, at which Member States and observers adopted the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. Some 200 speakers—91 Heads of State, 8 vice-presidents, 1 crown prince, 37 prime ministers, 10 deputy prime ministers, 21 foreign ministers, 9 chairmen of delegations and 23 observers—reaffirmed their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, expressed gratitude to those who have served the Organization, determined that the United Nations of the future would work with renewed vigour and effectiveness, and pledged to give the twenty-first century a United Nations equipped, financed and structured to serve its peoples.

The General Assembly, its General Committee and Main Committees held 393 meetings during the fiftieth session, compared with 384 during the forty-ninth; informal meetings and consultations totalled 296, versus 266 during the forty-ninth session; and the working groups of the Assembly held 292 meetings, compared with 163 during the previous session. As at 25 July 1996, the Assembly had adopted 321 resolutions during the fiftieth session, compared with 328 during the forty-ninth.

The open-ended working groups of the General Assembly—on an Agenda for Peace, an Agenda for Development, Security Council reform, the financial situation of the United Nations and the strengthening of the United Nations system—worked intensively to improve the effectiveness of the Organization and are scheduled to submit their reports to the Assembly before the end of its fiftieth session.

The number of formal meetings of the Security Council, compared with a similar period last year, decreased from 131 to 106. Consultations of the whole numbered 189, down from 226, resolutions decreased from 63 to 51 and presidential statements from 64 to 49.

This year, the Security Council focused its attention on African affairs, as well as on the former Yugoslavia. The Council also continued its consideration of agenda items dealing with the Americas, the question of sanctions and the various sanctions regimes.

The Economic and Social Council held its substantive session from 24 June to 26 July 1996 in New York. Its high-level segment dealt with an issue of priority on the international agenda, namely, international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and related activities. The coordination segment focused on coordination of activities of the United Nations system for poverty eradication. The operational activities segment focused on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions. The Economic and Social Council also adopted a resolution on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

A report containing Member States' comments on the review of the role of the Trusteeship Council was submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, at its request.

The International Court of Justice had 14 contentious cases on its docket and two requests for an advisory opinion.

In the Secretariat, considerable progress was made in the implementation of the Secretary-General's comprehensive management reform plan, set out in last year's annual report. Improvement in the management of the Organization's cost structure was a major focus of the past year, during which the Secretary-General proposed and the General Assembly approved the Organization's first zero nominal growth budget.

The \$2,608 million in approved appropriations for the biennium 1996-1997 included \$154 million in cost reductions mandated by the General Assembly beyond the \$98 million already indicated in the Secretary-General's proposed budget. The Secretary-General was asked to propose reductions while ensuring the full implementation of all mandated activities; he has met these cost reductions through a combination of staff cuts and efficiency measures. He was also asked to absorb some \$35 million for new unbudgeted mandates; the means of absorption will be reported in the performance report.

Efficiency measures implemented during the past year have led to substantial savings: printing of documents and publications has been cut by 27 per cent since January 1996; by late autumn, more than 270,000 United Nations documents in all official languages will be available electronically in at least 157 countries and the majority of the New York missions; travel has been reduced by 26 per cent in the first six months of 1996; and the consolidation of purchases of foreign currencies, beginning in July, will mean savings of more than \$1 million during the biennium.

The financial situation of the United Nations was a major focus of attention throughout the year and remains a matter of urgent concern. As at 31 July 1996, unpaid assessments totalled \$3 billion, of which \$0.8 billion was due to the regular budget and \$2.2 billion to the peacekeeping budget. The recurring need to borrow cash from peacekeeping accounts means that by the end of 1996 the United Nations will owe Member States some \$675 million for troops and equipment. While the overall cash-flow situation has improved, the Organization continues to face a worsening regular budget situation, with a persistent negative cash flow already seen and forecast for many months of the year.

The work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development centred around the forty-second session of the Trade and Development Board, which reviewed and made recommendations on the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of the Conference, and the ninth session of the Conference, held at Midrand, South Africa, from 27 April to 11 May 1996.

The second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996. The Conference, which was unique in its openness to representatives of civil society, produced a detailed Habitat Agenda, as well as a commitment by Governments to the progressive realization of the right to housing as provided for in international instruments.

During the period under review, some 23.3 million people have been targeted to receive assistance through United Nations inter-agency appeals, covering Angola, Afghanistan, the Caucasus region, the Russian Federation (Chechnya), the Great Lakes region, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and the former Yugoslavia. Of the \$2.5 billion requested in the 11 appeals launched since September 1995, a total of \$795 million has so far been pledged or carried over.

Between 1 September 1995 and 31 March 1996, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat provided assistance to 31 Member States to help them cope with the impact of 45 natural disasters and environmental emergencies. During the same period, the Department arranged for 13 relief operations from the United Nations Pisa warehouse and dispatched five field missions of its disaster assessment and coordination teams.

Protection and resettlement of refugees remained the focus of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose population of concern, at the end of 1995, stood at some 24 million worldwide, including 14.2 million refugees, along with returnees, internally displaced persons and others.

As part of the ongoing effort to implement the "Agenda for Peace", the Organization has strengthened its capacity for preventive action and early warning by setting up an Oversight Group of the Framework for Coordination, already established among the three departments of the Secretariat primarily concerned with the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, the Departments of Humanitarian Affairs, Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations.

The Departments of Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations are increasing their cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs on the Humanitarian Early Warning System.

While the commitment to United Nations peace-keeping declined significantly (67,269 troops were deployed in July 1995 as compared with 24,657 troops in July 1996), the complexity of the tasks entrusted to United Nations personnel did not diminish during the past year, as is revealed by the present report's detailed account of United Nations activities in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping.

During the year under review, the United Nations was involved in 33 peace operations, 17 of which were peacekeeping operations. Progress was made in developing a rapidly deployable headquarters team, in enhancing preparedness for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa and in further developing the system for standby arrangements.

Events over the course of the past year reaffirmed two key lessons: that every peace operation must be deployed with the strength necessary to achieve the tasks entrusted to it and to protect itself, and that no

instrument for peace and security can bring about peace without the will of the parties to the conflict to achieve peace.

The past year also witnessed a determined effort by the international community to take action to end the scourge of terrorism. In its resolution 50/53, the General Assembly reaffirmed the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, and at the Summit of Peacemakers, on 13 March 1996, the Secretary-General stressed his commitment to work towards adopting concrete measures to end terrorism.

On disarmament, three major long-term multilateral efforts in the nuclear field have strengthened the broad consensus in favour of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime: the signing of the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (15 December 1995), the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty) (11 April 1996) and work towards the finalization of the text of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. The period under review was also marked by new and ongoing initiatives in micro-disarmament, not least of which is the effort to achieve a permanent global ban on landmines and their components.

Between August 1995 and April 1996 the United Nations received 16 new requests for electoral assistance; assistance was provided in response to 10 of those requests, as well as to 17 requests received prior to August 1995.

During the period under review, the Departments of Humanitarian Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations were together responsible for mine-clearance programmes in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Mozambique and Rwanda, with continuing input into the programmes in Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. A one-year programme was completed in Yemen.

Introduction: Renewal and reform

This is my fifth annual report on the work of the Organization, presented in accordance with Article 98 of the Charter of the United Nations. Like the others, it offers a comprehensive overview of improvements in the administration of the Organization and of the full range of its efforts in the service of humanity: to help the afflicted and the suffering; to oppose war, violence and intolerance; to promote the rights and dignity of every individual; and to help bring about the economic, social, political and environmental conditions for long-term human progress.

In the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the past year has brought a historic recommitment by Member States to the purposes and principles of their Organization. At a three-day special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly, held in October 1995, 128 Heads of State and Government, joined by other high-level representatives of Member States and Permanent Observers, adopted the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, pledging themselves to give the twenty-first century a United Nations equipped, financed and structured effectively for the peoples of the world, in whose name it was established.

The period covered in the pages of this annual report has, however, also brought indications of a diminished willingness to engage the critical issues on the international agenda through the United Nations. Most notable among these indicators have been the ongoing financial crisis, which so dominated the first part of the year and remains a matter of urgent concern; the decline in peacekeeping activity (where 67,269 troops were deployed in July 1995 as compared with 24,657 in July 1996) without a parallel decline in the level of conflict requiring international attention; and a continuation of the dismaying downward trend in the level of resources made available for development, including through the United Nations system.

Yet over the course of the past year, further substantial progress has been made, as this report reveals, in strengthened administrative procedures, in adapting peacekeeping to new circumstances and in the effectiveness and coherence of development operations. As the rapidly evolving world situation demands new departures in both substance and structures, the United Nations has been undergoing comprehensive change to meet new and emerging problems and to tackle persistent problems in new contexts.

During the past 12 months, reform has been high on the Secretary-General's agenda, as well as on the agenda of the intergovernmental machinery, in particular the work programme of the General Assembly. Five working groups of the Assembly have been addressing major aspects of reform.

In my statement of 11 March 1996 to the Open-ended High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System, I stressed that reform—indeed change in the Organization—should be perceived not as

an imposition, not as compromising the objectives of the Charter, but as adapting structures and methods to the new global environment that the Organization has helped to bring about.

During the past year, this perception has gained ground at both the Secretariat and intergovernmental levels. Further concrete reform measures have been introduced. Many objectives that had been pursued without success in the past several years were finally realized. Major challenges, however, still lie ahead.

There are three main levels of institutional reform: intergovernmental, organizational and managerial. Each level differs in both the changes required and in the distribution of responsibility among the Secretary-General and the Member States for the actions necessary to effect those changes. They all must be pursued in a mutually reinforcing way, however. In this respect too, progress has been significant.

In relation to intergovernmental reform—the responsibility for which lies primarily with Member States—three interrelated objectives are, explicitly or implicitly, being pursued: improvements in the effectiveness and functioning of the principal organs; a better balance in the authority of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as envisioned in the Charter; and a streamlining of the subsidiary machinery—an important condition for effective overall reform, particularly in the economic and social fields.

As for the General Assembly, improvements in its functioning have been a major focus in the programme of the Open-ended High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System. At the same time, action has been taken by the Assembly, in its resolution 50/227, to reinforce significantly the coordinating role of the Economic and Social Council.

Equally important, the Assembly instructed the Council to undertake further reviews of its functional and regional commissions and its expert groups. The stage has thus been set not only for greater balance in the functioning of the principal organs, but also for a further streamlining and strengthening of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields.

Organizational reform concerns the simplification of Secretariat structures and the rationalization of both the multiplicity of programmes and funds and their relationships with the Secretariat. As such, it is a joint responsibility of the Secretary-General and the Member States. The reorganization I introduced soon after taking office, which involved a drastic reduction in the number of high-level posts and a significant simplification in Secretariat structures, was consolidated during the programme budget biennium 1994-1995. That reorganization has, in turn, made it possible to achieve zero nominal growth for the current biennium and has made way for a further phase of reform, involving not only the central Secretariat but also all the programmes and funds comprising the Organization, which I outlined in my statement of 11 March to the High-level Working Group of the General Assembly.

Complementing these two levels of institutional reform, managerial reform, which is primarily under the responsibility of the Secretary-General, is well under way. Progress during the year has been significant in relation to each of the strategic areas of management: human resources, cost structure, information and technology.

With respect to human resources, the system of accountability and responsibility that I presented to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session has been further consolidated. As an integral part of that system, the Code of Conduct of the International Civil Service is being strengthened and updated. A new work planning and appraisal system has been introduced at all duty stations. A comprehensive management training programme has been instituted and has already been completed by over 300 senior managers. The number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution has reached the highest point in United Nations history, and recruitment costs have been reduced by 30 per cent.

As for the management of costs, the current approved budget represents a 10 per cent reduction in real terms and includes cost cuts mandated by the General Assembly of \$154 million, beyond the \$98 million already indicated in my budget submission. This new budget reduces the total number of staff posts to 12 per cent less than that of 10 years ago. At the same time, the new Integrated Management Information System has enhanced the use of financial, human resource and procurement information, and has strengthened internal controls and accountability.

Progress in the management of technology has also been significant and has affected a wide range of Secretariat operations, from remote translation and text processing to high-speed electronic access to United

Nations documents through the new optical disk system, which has served to reduce by thousands the number of documents to be printed and distributed.

Cutting across these three areas, managerial reform has been accelerated by the work of the Efficiency Board I established in November 1995. With guidance from the Board and support from a working group of experts contributed by Member States, every office in the Secretariat has carried out efficiency reviews, involving some 400 projects to enhance management efficiency in the Secretariat. The results achieved to date have contributed to the savings mandated by the General Assembly and to improvements in the services and operations of the Secretariat, and have served to identify a number of areas where further systemic efficiency changes are needed. These are currently being addressed by the Board.

Effective reform in a global institution such as the United Nations must be rooted in a broad consensus on the main features of the new global environment and on the role the Organization is called upon to play in such changing circumstances.

These principles have been the focus of another long-term effort given particular prominence during the past year: the series of global conferences from New York in 1990 to Istanbul in 1996. Undeniably, some of these conferences have been controversial. I believe that, equally undeniably, they have shown that a true international community is coming into being, perhaps for the first time in history, and that it can summon the will and the capacity to deal with issues that nations cannot take on separately nor, indeed, in any manner other than by agreed universal action.

The centuries-old practice of convening international conferences is being transformed into a new mechanism for international cooperation. The new conferences are revolutionary in both form and focus, and, while keeping costs to the minimum, they are producing concrete and far-reaching results.

These conferences have been democratic in form, bringing together, on a basis of equality, representatives of Governments from throughout the world, often at the highest political level. At the same time, they have brought world leaders together with representatives of civil society, from business people to trade unionists, academics, women's groups, professional associations, local authorities and non-governmental organizations of all types.

These conferences have also been democratic in focus and linked so as to foster global consensus on specific, interlocking global issues, by considering their impact on the human person and human communities. A great many of my efforts as Secretary-General have been devoted to ensuring that each conference—on children, the environment and development, human rights, the sustainable development of small island States, natural disaster reduction, population and development, social development, the advancement of women, international trade and development, and human settlements—would build upon its predecessors and carry forward a common human thrust. Together, they are producing cumulative results, offering all development actors—North and South, governmental and non-governmental, public and private—a pragmatic, cooperative and comprehensive approach to the key challenges now faced by every nation in the world and by all nations together.

The results are considerable, starting with hard-won consensus reached on a range of important points, such as the need for a new and equitable partnership among all States, developed and developing, and among government and civil society at all levels, to achieve sustainable development; the recognition of the right to development and of the mutually reinforcing relationship between development, democracy and respect for human rights; the necessity of linking demographic change to development policies; the need to adopt new and more comprehensive policies to address problems of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration as global problems requiring global attention; the importance of a shared approach to common urban crises; and the recognition of the advancement of women as a key to progress in the search for equality, development and peace.

Through the world conferences, consensus reached on these and other fundamental issues is translated into new international norms, agreements and specific commitments, into concrete goals and objectives set by Member States for themselves and for the United Nations. These are then integrated by Member States into national priorities and supported by the United Nations and other organizations through practical programmes and operational activities. Steps are being taken to ensure that the commitments being produced are followed up effectively and efficiently, on a thematic, not simply a conference-by-conference, basis.

For all development actors, the entire conference series has provided an opportunity to forge durable and productive partnerships in the face of new challenges. For the United Nations in particular, the conferences have produced a comprehensive agenda, which gives new direction to the work of the Organization and to the reform and strengthening of its development machinery. This has been supported by new arrangements for inter-

secretariat coordination, agreed to by the Administrative Committee on Coordination. It has also helped to promote the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council as the key intergovernmental body for coordination. As part of this process of reform and revitalization, the intergovernmental structure of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and its secretariat and work programme have been streamlined and given a sharper focus. Cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions has been deepened further, as reflected in the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa. A leaner, more focused, better coordinated United Nations development system is coming into being, oriented to implementing programmes that reflect a broad political consensus on the priorities of development.

Even as the capacity of the United Nations to support development improves, the resources available to it for this purpose are decreasing. During the year the flow of voluntary resources into the United Nations funds and programmes declined. Overall, the flow of official development assistance from countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1995 declined in absolute terms to \$59 billion and as a percentage of gross national product to 0.27 per cent, a level far below the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent. Thus, for the economic and social sector, this was a year when the capacity to act effectively improved, but the means to do so declined.

The current cycle of global conferences came to a close with the ninth session of UNCTAD and Habitat II. The authority to convene additional world conferences lies with the General Assembly. The work of the past six-year conference series could be enhanced further should the Assembly decide to perform, on a continuing basis, the role that the new world conferences have played so far. The Assembly could decide to oversee and promote action to follow up the conferences that have already been held. It could deal with new global issues as they arise, comprehensively and at the political levels necessary, with the participation of civil society. Finally, the General Assembly would also need to take measures to ensure that the progress already made is not reversed, nor the promise spoiled by the precarious financial situation of the United Nations, which in recent years has proved to be an obstacle to the fundamental work, reform and revitalization of the Organization.

Whatever the mechanism the Member States decide upon to deal with shared global problems, the will to do so will be absolutely essential if the substantial recent achievements of the United Nations are to be consolidated and if a compelling vision for its future is to be fulfilled.

Conclusion: Peace, development, democratization

The pages of this report depict a United Nations in the midst of a dramatic transformation. The process began with the abrupt end of the cold war, when the bipolar system—a somewhat predictable, if not agreed system, according to which nations could order their relations—suddenly collapsed. With that collapse came a new hope that the promise of the Charter of the United Nations could be renewed, that an international system based on collective security, shared values and cooperative problem-solving could finally be achieved. It is in this context that Member States called the United Nations to action unprecedented in scale or scope.

The transformation has been neither smooth nor easy. The realities and assumptions of 50 years ago cannot simply be recreated, nor can the full dimensions of the changes taking place and their implications be instantly understood. Expectations for the United Nations were too high at the outset of what must inevitably be a long and difficult process, for after every major conflict in history has come to a close, it has taken years, sometimes a generation or more, to put in place a workable and enduring international system. In the aftermath of the cold war, the transformation to a new international system is still under way, but the United Nations, the world's vehicle in this process, has—sometimes painfully, sometimes with success—moved definitively forward. Political realities have been transformed. New forms of international cooperation have been required and continue to take shape. New rules, concepts and procedures are emerging case by case. The structures of the United Nations are being streamlined and opened, the Organization streamlined and deregulated, costs reduced, accountability strengthened and performance improved. In the past five years alone, the distance travelled has been great. The time has come to examine how what has been achieved so far relates to a vision of the United Nations for the period ahead.

The United Nations has worked to bring peace and security to a world in which conflicts and confrontations within States are now more prevalent than wars between them. The first-ever Summit Meeting of the Security Council (January 1992) and the subsequent report to the Council on "An Agenda for Peace" launched an international debate on the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security under these new circumstances and engendered an ongoing process of initiative, discovery and reflection. Preventive diplomacy has been identified as a priority, the Organization's capacity for it strengthened and a preventive

deployment force authorized for the first time. While traditional United Nations peacekeeping has continued to prove effective in conflict situations between States that have the will to maintain peace, the United Nations has worked to adapt its peacekeeping instrument to deal with internal conflicts through more complex, multifaceted operations. These incorporate elements of traditional peacekeeping with political, social, economic, humanitarian and human rights aspects, an approach that has proved most successful where conflicts are being resolved through processes of negotiation, but has encountered setbacks where war situations continued. An important part of these efforts has been to advance United Nations cooperation with regional organizations in peace and security on an ad hoc basis and under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Another important dimension has been a new emphasis on post-conflict peace-building—linking conflict control and resolution with action to address the roots of conflict and strengthen the basis for reconstruction and development. And disarmament remains integral to United Nations peace efforts; the historic decision reached at the United Nations to extend indefinitely the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has reaffirmed the process of macro-disarmament as vigorous and essential, while steps are being taken to explore the new idea of micro-disarmament, with a view to its integration into the wider context of preventive diplomacy and peace-building.

In human rights and humanitarian assistance, the United Nations has continued to serve as the universal forum for advancing consensus and as a coordinating mechanism among the many organizations active in the field. While the easing of ideological tensions and the acceleration of democratization has spurred progress on one level, the new conflicts have all too often been accompanied by massive human rights violations and humanitarian emergencies, posing new challenges. The United Nations in response has moved to integrate, to the extent possible, its human rights and humanitarian efforts with its peace efforts and to link both areas of effort to its work for reconstruction and development; mechanisms to those ends have been strengthened at Headquarters to enhance substantive and logistical support for forging such linkages and cooperation in the field. The Organization has pursued closer cooperation with its key operational partners, governmental and nongovernmental, in the human rights and humanitarian communities. At the request of Member States, it has deployed human rights field presences in several countries. It has expanded its advisory services and technical cooperation for building national human rights and humanitarian infrastructure, and it has strengthened its capacity for and emphasis on early warning and preventive action.

Development and democratization can themselves be the most effective forms of conflict prevention. The United Nations has therefore endeavoured to ensure that urgent efforts in peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance do not detract from long-term efforts for human progress.

Facing a sharp decline in international development assistance, the United Nations has worked to forge international agreement on a new rationale and framework for development cooperation, through the ongoing debate on the "Agenda for Development". As an integral part of this process, the continuum of global conferences has produced specific commitments and is giving shape to the comprehensive agenda and cooperative framework that are now needed. My contribution to this process, through my reports on "An Agenda for Development" and promotion of an integrated approach to the preparation of these conferences, has been followed by an unprecedented effort on the part of the United Nations system as a whole to bring about a coordinated follow-up to their outcomes around common priority themes—employment, social services, the enabling environment, the advancement of women and poverty reduction.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat has continued to work to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out policy analysis and operational mandates and in utilizing the development assistance provided by Member States. Working to define better the Organization's role and to strengthen its capacity in the three key areas of information-gathering and analysis, policy coordination and technical cooperation for capacity-building has not only served to sharpen its own contribution and impact, but has also greatly advanced efforts to achieve a more effective division of labour within the United Nations system as a whole. New levels of cooperation have been reached between the United Nations and the agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, one major coordinated effort being the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa, designed to mobilize, coherently and efficiently, international support for Africa's priority development goals.

Supporting democratization is becoming a new thrust in the work of the United Nations. Electoral assistance from the United Nations continues to grow, while the full range of support for societies to prepare the institutional and cultural ground in which democratization can take shape is being expanded in the increasing number of Member States that seek it. At the same time, the United Nations is working to promote democratization internationally. One way of doing this is by opening United Nations forums to the views of non-State actors, such as regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, members of the

academic and business communities and the media. Another integral element of the United Nations efforts to promote democratization internationally is the ongoing effort to promote respect for the rule of law in international relations and the progressive development of international law. Major steps in this direction include the increased use by Member States of the International Court of Justice in both dispute settlement and the provision of advisory opinions, the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the establishment by the Security Council of international tribunals to judge war crimes and crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the beginning of negotiations on the establishment of a permanent international criminal court.

This surge in new activity and substantive change across the spectrum of United Nations efforts has both demanded and enabled major institutional reform. This report details my ongoing effort at the managerial level towards a mission-driven, result-oriented Organization, showing enhanced performance, improved productivity and increased cost-effectiveness.

The simplification of Secretariat structures that I have introduced—to reflect not the structures but the key areas of work of the intergovernmental machinery—has paved the way for a further reorganization at the Secretariat level, which, as I indicated last March in my statement to the Open-ended High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System, must encompass not only the central Secretariat but also the secretariats of the many programmes and funds of the Organization. The aim would be to achieve a more integrated Organization—one in which the central Secretariat, the regional structures and the operational entities could plan and act as one.

Like my earlier initiatives on organizational reform, this initiative is designed to avoid the common flaw of restructuring exercises in years past, which was to create additional layers of coordination, superimposed on multiple and diverse entities. Instead, the guiding principle of my initiatives has been and will continue to be simplification and consolidation, achieved through a "bottom up" approach to eliminate duplication in support services and overlap in activities.

This further phase of reorganization would group all entities that are part of the Organization into a small number of clusters. Each cluster would undertake a set of central Secretariat responsibilities and would comprise related programmes and funds contributing to common objectives and functions. Clusters would thus serve to advance strategic objectives of the Organization as a whole—peace and security, human rights, humanitarian assistance, economic and social analysis, operational activities for development. At the same time, management support and services would be further consolidated and strengthened. Each cluster would include not only the programmes and funds that would be its main pillars but also a capacity, drawn from existing Secretariat departments, to provide integrated support to the intergovernmental body charged with imparting overall policy direction to the work of the entities constituting each cluster.

From my experience over the past five years, I am convinced that the personal and direct involvement of the Secretary-General is essential to effective management, in particular at times of mass change. For such involvement to be sustained and in fact enhanced, some form of substantial reduction in the number of lines of reporting to the Secretary-General—there are now some 30 United Nations entities reporting to him directly—is seriously needed. While preserving the distinct identity of the various programmes and funds, reorganization along the lines suggested above would establish broader spheres of management responsibility and significantly reduce the number of lines of reporting to the Secretary-General. It would assist the Secretary-General in imparting common management directives to entities that contribute to common objectives and together represent a basic dimension of the Organization's work. It would also facilitate the crucial task of promoting effective linkages among the basic dimensions of the work of the United Nations, thereby sustaining the unitary character of its mission, as envisaged in the Charter.

The implementation of such an initiative, or other further progress in reform at the managerial and organizational levels, will require endorsement and complementary initiatives at the intergovernmental level. One major requirement in this regard will be for Member States to strengthen the capacity of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to provide coherent overall guidance to the basic dimensions of the work of the Organization. This is one important aspect of the major questions of intergovernmental reform now before five open-ended working groups of the General Assembly: on an Agenda for Peace, an Agenda for Development, the financial situation of the United Nations, Security Council reform, and the strengthening of the United Nations system.

Reform, both political and institutional, must be ongoing. It is a process, not an event. There is no one point where the United Nations could declare reform "done". But the current critical phase of transformation can be brought to completion, and it must be, if we are to put the United Nations firmly on the road to a future in which collective security, the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and the promotion of social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom can proceed as intended by the Charter.

Reform efforts in the past year have shown us the future of the Organization. It is in essence a simple vision—a vision of a United Nations that works.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter I (pp. 15–44)

International peace and security

AGENDA FOR PEACE, 15. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 19: General aspects, 19; Comprehensive review of peacekeeping, 20; Operations in 1996, 23; Roster of 1996 operations, 24; Financing of peacekeeping operations, 26; Management of peacekeeping assets, 38. OTHER MATTERS, 42: Demining, 42; Cooperation with regional organizations, 43.

The maintenance and promotion of international peace and security was a primary focus of United Nations activities during 1996. To achieve its objectives in that area, the Organization was involved in a wide range of peacekeeping operations, as well as preventive diplomacy and peacemaking activities, post-conflict peace-building, the application of sanctions and efforts towards disarmament (see PART ONE, Chapter VII).

During the year, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations recommended action to improve the planning, management and financing of UN missions, to reinforce cooperation with regional organizations, and to strengthen the rapid deployment capacity of the United Nations by enhancing standby arrangements between the Organization and Member States for resources to be used in UN operations. The General Assembly endorsed those recommendations in December.

Over the course of 1996, there were 19 United Nations peacekeeping operations deployed worldwide, with more than 25,000 military and civilian police personnel serving by mid-year under UN command—virtually no change since the end of the previous year, but a marked decline from the 67,000 peacekeepers who had been deployed in mid-1995. By the end of 1996, there were 16 UN operations, three of them new—two in Croatia, the third in Haiti. Another three UN missions—in Croatia, Rwanda and Haiti—completed their mandates during the year.

In addition to its widespread deployment of peacekeeping operations, the United Nations used other means to address conflict situations: the Secretary-General's special representatives, special envoys and other emissaries in a number of countries and territories, including Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, El Salvador, Sierra Leone and Somalia; mine clearance (demining) activities; electoral assistance programmes; and missions to monitor and protect human rights, as in El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti.

The cost of UN peacekeeping operations during the year was estimated at \$1.4 billion, compared with \$3.2 billion in 1995, while unpaid assessed contributions from Member States to the peacekeeping budget amounted to \$2.2 billion as at 31 July 1996, further exacerbating the severe financial situation of the Organization (see PART FIVE, Chapter II).

The General Assembly in 1996 considered various aspects of peacekeeping financing, including reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment, third-party claims against UN operations, entitlements of peacekeeping personnel, the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, the support account for peacekeeping operations, unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, and apportionment of costs among Member States, as well as management of peacekeeping assets and procurement reform.

In March 1996, the Security Council set out new procedures for consultation and exchange of information with troop-contributing countries. In August, it made recommendations concerning mine clearance in the context of peacekeeping.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter II (pp. 45–151)

Africa

GREAT LAKES REGION, 46: Peacemaking efforts, 46; Refugee situation, 53. ZAIRE, 55: General situation, 55. RWANDA, 59: UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda, 60; UN Office in Rwanda, 65; Refugees, 66; Human Rights Field Operation, 67; Rehabilitation and reconstruction, 67; Arms embargo, 68. BURUNDI, 73. ANGOLA, 89: Implementation of Lusaka Protocol and UNAVEM III, 90. LIBERIA, 109: UN operations in Liberia, 109; Sanctions Committee, 121. SIERRA LEONE, 121. SOMALIA, 123: Political and security developments, 124; Humanitarian relief and rehabilitation, 127. THE SUDAN, 128: Political developments, 128; Sudan-Ethiopia, 128; Sudan-Eritrea, 133; Sudan-Uganda, 133. WESTERN SAHARA, 133: Implementation of settlement plan, 134. OTHER QUESTIONS, 143: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 143; Mozambique, 146; Mayotte, 146; Cameroon-Nigeria, 146; Eritrea-Yemen, 147; Cooperation between OAU and the UN system, 148.

The continent of Africa continued to suffer from debilitating political and civil conflict during 1996, resulting in massive flows of refugees and displaced persons. The countries most severely affected by ethnic strife and the ensuing humanitarian problems were African nations in the Great Lakes region, particularly Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi. The situation in Burundi was further complicated by a coup d'etat on 25 July, when the power-sharing Government established in 1994 was overthrown. The widespread tensions and violence in the Great Lakes region led to hundreds of thousands crossing borders between neighbouring Central African nations, particularly Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi. During the year, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were also affected by the turmoil. Beginning in mid-November, the significant return of refugees to Rwanda from eastern Zaire eased the humanitarian crisis to some degree. The mandate for a multinational force, authorized by the Security Council on 15 November, was terminated at year's end because of the changed situation. Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General continued their work for the entire region.

In Angola, the United Nations focused on efforts to implement the 1994 Lusaka Protocol signed by the two parties to the long-standing dispute—the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). However, progress in implementing the terms of the accord relating to the withdrawal and demilitarization of UNITA forces and the integration of those forces into a national military remained slow.

The civil war continued in Liberia despite the warring factions having signed an agreement in 1995. At one point, fighting between the factions erupted again, but the sides agreed to return to a ceasefire by the end of the year. Following international diplomatic intervention, the several parties agreed on a revised schedule for elections, postponing them until May 1997.

A coup d'etat occurred in Sierra Leone on 16 January following years of civil unrest. Nevertheless, the new leaders of that country carried out the previously planned presidential elections and a peace agreement was signed by the two opposing sides in November.

Political chaos, civil strife and famine remained the dominant features of the situation in Somalia. UN efforts to achieve national reconciliation were stymied by a lack of cooperation from the Somali parties, and

fighting resumed in December. A United Nations Political Office for Somalia was established in Nairobi, Kenya, to maintain contact with political leaders and coordinate relief assistance.

Agreements were signed by the Government of the Sudan in 1996—on 10 April, with two rebel factions, to end the ongoing civil war, and on 9 September, with Uganda, to normalize relations. The Security Council in January demanded that the Sudan extradite to Ethiopia three suspects in the June 1995 assassination attempt on the President of Egypt in Addis Ababa, and a Special Envoy was appointed by the Secretary-General. In April and again in August, travel and diplomatic sanctions were imposed by the Council against the Sudan for noncompliance with its resolution.

In Western Sahara, the United Nations continued to work towards holding a referendum on the self-determination of the territory. However, the two parties—the Government of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro (POLISARIO)—remained at an impasse over the issue of who would be eligible to vote. The ceasefire continued to hold throughout the year.

As part of its efforts to find solutions to the political problems facing Africa, the United Nations maintained four peacekeeping forces on the continent in 1996: the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM); the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL); the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO); and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). UNAMIR's mandate expired in March and the last troops left Rwanda in April, after a two-and-a-half year presence in that country. UNOMIL, in place since 1993, had been supplemented since 1994 by the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG).

Two international bodies dealt with specific investigations in Africa in 1996: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (see PART FOUR, Chapter II), and the International Commission of Inquiry established to investigate reports of the sale or supply of arms to former Rwandan government forces residing in eastern Zaire.

The Security Council in 1996 upheld sanctions imposed against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 1992, despite efforts to have them lifted. The sanctions were intended to obtain the Libyan Government's cooperation in releasing two individuals suspected of involvement in a 1988 aircraft bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter III (pp. 152–203)

Americas

CENTRAL AMERICA, 152: El Salvador, 157; Guatemala, 162; Nicaragua, 171. HAITI, 171: United Nations Mission in Haiti, 172; UN Support Mission in Haiti, 180; International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH), 187. OTHER QUESTIONS, 194: Cuba-United States, 194; Ecuador-Peru, 198; Panama Canal, 199; Cooperation with OAS, 200; Cooperation with CARICOM, 202.

At the end of 1996, Central America looked forward to a regional situation without armed conflict for the first time in more than three decades, with the signing on 29 December of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace by the parties to the conflict in Guatemala and the final phase of implementing the 1992 El Salvador agreement.

The Guatemala Agreement crowned the peace negotiations in that country, which during the year brought about the cessation of hostilities and a number of other agreements, including those on social and economic aspects and the agrarian situation, the strengthening of civilian power and the role of the armed forces in a democratic society, constitutional reforms and the electoral regime, and the legal integration of opposition forces. The UN verification mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) reported improvement in the human rights situation there.

Further progress was achieved in the peace process in El Salvador as well; in May, the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL) was replaced by a smaller United Nations Office of Verification (ONUV), which continued to oversee implementation of outstanding provisions of the peace accords in that country and concluded its mandate on 31 December.

The process of transition to a democratic society in Nicaragua was consolidated further with the holding of general elections in October.

The political situation also continued to improve in Haiti. On 1 July, the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was succeeded by the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), established in accordance with the Security Council's June resolution to assist in the Government's efforts to professionalize the police and maintain a secure and stable environment conducive to the success of those efforts. In December, the mandate of UNSMIH was extended for a final period, until 31 May 1997. In addition, the United Nations continued its participation in the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH), operated jointly with the Organization of American States (OAS) and charged with monitoring the human rights situation.

The International Civil Aviation Organization investigated the shooting down of two civilian aircraft by the Cuban airforce, and in July the Security Council condemned the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight; at the same time, it reaffirmed the principle that States should prohibit the use of civil aircraft under their jurisdiction for purposes inconsistent with the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

The General Assembly later in the year considered the ongoing United States economic embargo against Cuba. In other action, the Assembly reiterated its support for Panama's initiative to convene in 1997 a Universal Congress on the Panama Canal to examine the role the Canal should play in the twenty-first century, and adopted resolutions on strengthening UN cooperation with OAS and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter IV (pp. 204–271)

Asia and the Pacific

IRAQ, 204: UN Special Commission, 205; IAEA activities, 220; Oil-for-food, 225; UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, 231; Other matters, 234. AFGHANISTAN, 239: UN Special Mission to Afghanistan, 240. TAJIKISTAN, 251. KOREAN QUESTION, 263: Armistice Agreement, 263; IAEA inspections agreements, 266. OTHER MATTERS, 268: Iran, 268; Cambodia, 270; India-Pakistan, 271.

During 1996, conflicts and turmoil in parts of the region of Asia and the Pacific were dealt with by the United Nations. Dominating regional concerns were those associated with Iraq, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and the Korean peninsula. Other matters considered during the year involved situations relating to Iran, Cambodia, India and Pakistan.

Complex weapons inspections in Iraq—the result of the 1991 ceasefire agreement following the Gulf War—continued to be conducted. Despite those efforts, however, the United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were unable to report to the Security Council that Iraq was in full compliance with its obligations under Council resolution 687(1991). On 20 May, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed, setting out procedures for implementing Council resolution 986(1995), which authorized arrangements, known as the "oil-for-food" formula, by which Iraq would be permitted to sell up to \$ 1 billion worth of oil, the proceeds from which could be used for humanitarian purposes to assist the Iraqi people.

The fall of Kabul in September marked a significant change in the situation in Afghanistan, which was wracked by ongoing civil war, often exacerbated by various forms of foreign involvement. The fundamentalist Taliban group, after taking over the capital city and a number of provinces, instituted practices considered violations of human rights, particularly of women, which were noted in United Nations reports. The execution in September of former President Najibullah, detained for some four years in Kabul, was cited as "brutal" by the Secretary-General, who earlier in the year had appealed for his release. Negotiations aimed at a cessation of the ongoing hostilities were a focus of the work of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan.

Consultations also continued during the year with regard to the conflict in Tajikistan, where fighting occurred sporadically despite a ceasefire agreement signed in mid-July. By the end of the year, the two sides had agreed on establishing a Commission on National Reconciliation, which was to function during a transition period until a new parliament was established. The United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) continued to investigate ceasefire violations and maintained liaison with the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The United Nations Command continued to monitor the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement, which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) termed "obsolete" and insisted should be replaced. The General Assembly in October commended IAEA for continuing to seek full compliance by the DPRK with its obligations under its safeguards agreement with the Agency.

Although not acted upon, communications were addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council involving India and Pakistan over the long-standing issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter V (pp. 272–377)

Europe and the Mediterranean

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, 273: Peacekeeping activities, 273; State succession issues, 287; End of sanctions, 287. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, 288: Background, 289; Implementation of Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement, 290; Implementation meetings, 304. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO), 316. CROATIA, 317: UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), 318; UN Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP), 330; Human rights concerns, 333. THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM), 341: UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), 341. ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN, 347. GEORGIA, 349: UN Observer Mission in Georgia, 349. CYPRUS, 361: UNFICYP (December 1995-June 1996), 363; Good offices mission (June report), 366; UNFICYP (June-December 1996), 367; Good offices mission (December report), 371. OTHER ISSUES, 373: Cooperation with OSCE, 373; Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, 375.

The United Nations in 1996 continued to play an important role in handling the complexities emanating from the break-up of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, still dominant among its concerns in the region of Europe and the Mediterranean. Other situations in Europe in which the United Nations was involved during the year included those relating to Abkhazia in Georgia, Nagorny Karabakh in Azerbaijan, and the Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

UN peacekeeping operations continued to function in parts of the territory of the former Yugoslavia, which now comprised five independent nations—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (FRY), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), and Slovenia.

Major activities in 1996 were focused on Bosnia and Herzegovina, many connected with the implementation of two major agreements signed late in 1995. The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Annexes Thereto (also known as the Dayton-Paris Agreement or the Peace Agreement) was initialled in Dayton, Ohio, United States, on 21 November 1995, and signed in Paris three weeks later, on 14 December 1995, by the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and FRY. A separate Dayton Agreement on implementing the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina—one of two entities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the other being the Serb-dominated Republika Srpska)—was signed on 10 November 1995. The Federation was comprised primarily of Bosnian Muslim (Bosniac) and Bosnian Croat citizens.

The new multinational military Implementation Force (IFOR) at the outset of 1996 succeeded the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. IFOR, with some 60,000 troops from 34 countries, led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was replaced at year's end by the new Stabilization Force (SFOR). The United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), with headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia—which had overseen UN peacekeeping activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and FYROM for most of 1995—was also phased out in early 1996, as was the Office of the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo.

Two new peacekeeping operations for Croatia—the United Nations Transitional Authority for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) and the United Nations Mission of Observers for Prevlaka (UNMOP)—were established on the basis of the signing on 12 November 1995 of the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium. The United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) continued to monitor borders of FYROM in 1996.

The International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY), established in 1992 to facilitate the peace process, ceased to exist on 31 January 1996. A new body—the Peace Implementation Council (PIC)—was established as the overall structure to supervise the peace process for Bosnia and Herzegovina, superseding ICFY. Carl Bildt of Sweden was appointed as High Representative by the Peace Implementation Conference to monitor and coordinate implementation of the civilian aspects of the 1995 Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement.

During the year, elections were held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, sanctions were terminated for FRY, and State succession issues continued to be addressed and resolved. Refugee problems persisted throughout the area, as did human rights concerns.

Regarding Cyprus, the Secretary-General stepped up his endeavours to convince the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to resume negotiations and to find a final political solution. The Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until 30 June 1997.

No significant progress was achieved during the year towards a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Georgia, including on the political status of Abkhazia. The United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) continued to monitor compliance with the 1994 ceasefire agreement. A new UN office monitored the human rights situation in Abkhazia.

The United Nations supported peacemaking efforts by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to obtain agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan to end the armed conflict in Nagorny Karabakh.

In other action, the General Assembly commended the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in meeting common challenges through coordinated responses and encouraged them to strengthen their cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism, international crime, illicit arms transfers and illicit drug trafficking.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter VI (pp. 378–445)

Middle East

PEACE PROCESS, 379: Overall situation, 379; Jerusalem, 383; Occupied territories, 386. ISSUES RELATED TO PALESTINE, 398: General aspects, 398; Assistance to Palestinians, 405; The UN and Palestinian refugees, 412. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 427: Lebanon, 427; The Syrian Arab Republic, 439.

In 1996, the United Nations continued to support efforts to keep the peace process on track and remained involved in the Middle East in a number of ways—through its peacekeeping operations and the good offices of the Secretary-General, as well as through significantly expanded programmes of economic, social and other forms of assistance. Promising developments, such as the withdrawal of Israeli troops from some West Bank cities, paved the way for the first general Palestinian elections in January. There were some setbacks, as well, including those linked to the delayed redeployment of Israeli troops from the city of Hebron, plans to expand Israeli settlements, seizure of Palestinian land and demolition of Palestinian homes.

The General Assembly in December stressed that the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict would constitute a significant contribution to strengthening international peace and security. It stressed the need to achieve rapid progress on all tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process. The Assembly reaffirmed the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, which it again acknowledged as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Negotiations on a permanent status for the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel were formally launched in May, raising hopes that tangible results would soon follow. Among the outstanding "final status" issues to be resolved was the status of Jerusalem, which again drew international attention in the wake of protests against Israel's decision to open an old tunnel under the Al-Aqsa Mosque, connecting sacred and archaeologically important sites in the Holy City. Bloody confrontations ensued, during which the Israeli army and Palestinian police faced each other for the first time, and fighting erupted in other cities of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, resulting in a large number of casualties on both sides. After the Security Council called for immediate cessation and reversal of acts that had aggravated the situation, with negative implications for the peace process, Israel and the Palestinian side decided in October to resume negotiations aimed at resolving outstanding issues and implementing the 1993 Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements.

The Secretary-General attended a "Summit of Peacemakers" in March, co-chaired by the Presidents of Egypt and the United States and convoked to confront the acts of violence that threatened the Middle East peace process.

To redress the difficult economic situation of the Palestinians, the UN system responded with increased assistance, coordinated by the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories. At a Ministerial Conference on Economic Assistance to the Palestinian People, held in January, donors pledged more than \$800 million for investment projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

UN initiatives were largely geared towards creating employment opportunities for Palestinians, developing infrastructure, expanding and encouraging the private sector, and assisting the young Palestinian Authority in building its institutions and in providing education and health services.

In 1996, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian Rights) continued to mobilize international support for the Palestinians. The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories reported to the General Assembly on the situations in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Despite serious financial problems, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to provide a wide-ranging programme of education, health and relief services to more than 3.3 million Palestinian refugees living both in and outside camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The situation in southern Lebanon remained both tense and volatile, with hostilities between Israel and armed elements opposing Israeli occupation intensifying in early 1996. The Security Council and the General Assembly called for an immediate cessation of those hostilities. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) pursued its efforts to limit the conflict and protect inhabitants from its consequences. The mandates of UNIFIL and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights were extended, and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization UNTSO, headquartered in Jerusalem, continued to assist both peacekeeping operations in their tasks.

On 16 December, by decision 51/433, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the agenda item entitled "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security" and included it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second (1997) session. The item had been inscribed yearly on the Assembly's agenda since 1981, following the bombing by Israel of a nuclear research centre near Baghdad [YUN 1981, p. 275].

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter VII (pp. 446–505)

Disarmament

UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT, 446: UN machinery, 446. NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT, 451: Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 451; Non-proliferation treaty, 455; Prohibition of use, 458; IAEA safeguards, 462; Nuclear disarmament, 463; Nuclear-weapon-free zones, 468; Other nuclear and related issues, 474. BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS, 476: Bacteriological (biological) weapons convention, 476; Chemical weapons convention, 479. CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND RELATED ISSUES, 480: Landmines, 480; Excessively injurious conventional weapons, 483; Confidence-building, 486; Arms transfers, 488; Regional approaches to disarmament, 491. OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES, 496: Prevention of an arms race in outer space, 496; Disarmament and development, 498; Science and technology, 498; Environment and disarmament, 500; Studies, information and training, 501.

The adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the General Assembly on 10 September 1996 was the culmination of more than four decades of lengthy and complex negotiations and marked a major milestone on the road to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Upon the opening for signature of the historic, 17-article document at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September, the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Treaty, said its approval by the General Assembly had been a "bold act" that had realized a longstanding objective of the international community.

In the Treaty's preamble, States parties recognized that the cessation of all nuclear-weapon-test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, constituted an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. They stressed that the most effective way to end nuclear testing was through a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, which had been one of the highest priority objectives of the international community in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In May 1996, the Review Conference on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons adopted an amended Protocol II on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby traps and other devices. The revised Protocol constituted an important step towards the total elimination of anti-personnel mines. The number of participants continued to increase in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which promoted an enhanced level of transparency regarding arms transfers.

In October 1996, the requirements were fulfilled to allow the entry into force of the 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Convention was to enter into force on 29 April 1997. Efforts continued towards strengthening the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction at the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 25 November to 6 December.

Progress at the regional level included the opening for signature of the 1995 African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (also known as the Treaty of Pelindaba), by which the entire continent of Africa would

become a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and the signing of its Protocols by the five nuclear-weapon States, as well as France's ratification of them. The signing of the Protocols to the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) by France, the United Kingdom and the United States was considered another achievement in the area of disarmament in 1996.

The Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral negotiating body, held a three-part session in Geneva in 1996 (22 January-29 March, 13 May-28 June and 29 July-13 September). In addition to concluding a draft comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, it considered items on: cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments.

The Disarmament Commission (New York, 22 April-7 May), comprising all United Nations Member States, considered the subject of international arms transfers, as well as a new item on an exchange of views on convening a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter VIII (pp. 506–562)

Other political and security questions

GENERAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 506: Implementation of the 1970 Declaration, 506; Maintenance of international security—prevention of the violent disintegration of States, 507; Support for democracies, 508. REGIONAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 511: South Atlantic, 511; Indian Ocean, 512; Antarctica, 514. TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION, 516: Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 516; Implementation of the 1960 Declaration, 516; Other general questions, 526; Other colonial Territories, 529; Future of Trusteeship Council, 536. INFORMATION, 536: Communication issues, 537; UN public information, 538. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, 547: Space science and technology, 547; Space law, 555. EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION, 561.

During 1996, the United Nations continued to consider a number of general issues related to international peace and security, as well as regional aspects of such security, the eradication of colonialism, information, the peaceful uses of outer space and the effects of atomic radiation.

The United Nations supported government efforts to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, through such means as providing electoral assistance and building institutions for democracy. According to the Secretary-General, the Organization had a distinct role to play in democratization by helping each State that so requested to pursue its own path in that direction through a variety of processes. The General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to improve the UN capacity to respond to Member States' requests by supporting their efforts to achieve democratization.

In 1996, the Assembly took action on the specific regional security issues of the South Atlantic, the Indian Ocean and Antarctica, after having considered relevant reports on UN activities in those areas.

In the area of decolonization, the Assembly acted on the recommendations of its Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

UN activities in the field of information focused on two areas—the use of information and related technology in the service of humanity, and UN public information policies and activities. The Assembly acted on both topics.

Acting on the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—the main body dealing with space issues, particularly in the scientific, technical and legal fields—the Assembly in December adopted the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries. In doing so, it stated its desire to apply the principle that the exploration and use of outer space would be the province of all mankind. The Assembly also endorsed the Committee's recommendations on its future programme of work.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation continued its studies on atomic and ionizing radiation and analysed its effects on mankind and the environment. The Assembly noted with satisfaction the Committee's completion in 1996 of a scientific annex on the effects of radiation on the

environment and called on the Committee to ensure the widest possible dissemination of that study to Member States.

Part Two: Human rights

Chapter I (pp. 565–600)

Promotion of human rights

UN MACHINERY, 565: Commission on Human Rights, 565; Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 566; Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, 566; Strengthening UN action, 570. HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS, 571: General aspects, 571; Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocols, 575; Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 575; Convention against racial discrimination, 577; Convention against torture, 579; Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 581; Convention on Rights of the Child, 581; Convention on migrant workers, 582; Convention on genocide, 583; Convention against apartheid, 583. OTHER ACTIVITIES, 583: Follow-up to 1993 World Conference, 583; Advisory services, 586; Public information, 593; Human rights education, 593; Culture of peace, 596; National institutions and regional arrangements, 597; Cooperation with UN human rights bodies, 599.

In 1996, the United Nations continued its efforts to promote human rights through a number of mechanisms, including the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary body—the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities—and human rights treaty-monitoring bodies which reported on their work to promote respect for human rights to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In addition, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the assistance of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, carried out the programme of advisory services in human rights, which in 1996 implemented some 402 activities compared to 215 in 1995.

Human rights instruments during 1996 promoted a wide range of human rights covering civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, racial discrimination, discrimination against women, protection of children and the practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Part Two: Human rights
Chapter II (pp. 601–680)
Protection of human rights

RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, 601: Third Decade against racism, 601. OTHER QUESTIONS RELATING TO INTOLERANCE, 608: Follow-up to UN Year for Tolerance, 609; Discrimination against minorities, 610; Religious intolerance, 612; HIV- and AIDS-related discrimination, 616. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, 617: The right to self-determination, 617; Democratic processes, 621; Administration of justice, 623; Other issues, 630. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, 643: Right to development, 643; Extreme poverty, 649; Right to adequate housing, 650; Right to food, 651; Scientific concerns, 652; Slavery and related issues, 652; Vulnerable groups, 654 Other issues, 680.

The United Nations in 1996 continued to seek ways to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens of the world—from victims of violent conflicts, racial discrimination, intolerance and judicial inequities, to children, women and those living in extreme poverty.

Two major International Covenants—on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights—provided ongoing guidelines for those entrusted with safeguarding the situations of vulnerable individuals and groups. Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary body, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, examined such questions as contemporary forms of racism; religious intolerance; freedom of speech; extra-legal executions; the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations; independence of judges and the judiciary; torture; the right to adequate housing; environmental issues; violence against women; sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; protection of indigenous heritage, and matters concerning indigenous populations. In addition, an expert presented a major study on the protection of children in armed conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General investigated situations of internally displaced persons.

During the year, working groups considered arbitrary detention, enforced or involuntary disappearances, including cases of missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, as well as the right to contemporary forms of slavery.

Part Two: Human rights
Chapter III (pp. 681–723)
Human rights violations

GENERAL ASPECTS, 681. AFRICA, 681: Burundi, 681; Equatorial Guinea, 683; Great Lakes region, 683; Liberia, 683; Nigeria, 684; Rwanda, 686; The Sudan, 690; Zaire, 694. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 695: Afghanistan, 695; Cambodia, 697; China, 697; East Timor, 697; Iran, 697; Iraq, 700; Myanmar, 704. EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN, 706: Cyprus, 706; The former Yugoslavia, 707; Estonia and Latvia, 717; Russian Federation, 718. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 718: Colombia, 718; Cuba, 719. MIDDLE EAST, 721: Lebanon, 721; Occupied territories, 722.

Alleged violations of human rights in 1996 were examined in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as by special bodies, special rapporteurs and independent experts.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter I (pp. 727–758)

Development policy and international economic cooperation

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 727: Development and international economic cooperation, 727; Sustainable development, 735; Eradication of poverty, 741; Science and technology for development, 746. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS AND POLICY, 747. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 749. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 752.

The rates of economic growth of both the developed and developing countries rose in 1996, while the rate of economic contraction slowed in the Commonwealth of Independent States. In many cases, however, output per person was rising only slowly and lacked the dynamism—and poverty reduction—that would come from high levels of investment, capacity expansion, rapid productivity increase and rising employment. Indeed, the risk of marginalization remained high for low-income countries that depended largely on commodity exports for foreign exchange earnings and official development assistance for foreign capital inflows.

Through the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development, work continued throughout the year on the elaboration of the concept of an agenda for development—an integrated approach to a wide range of economic and social issues originally proposed by the Secretary-General in 1992. Following a review of the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (the 1990s), both adopted in 1990, the Assembly, in a December resolution, called for the review and appraisal of the Declaration and the Strategy, to be coordinated with the follow-up work on major UN conferences and the ongoing discussion on an agenda for development.

The Commission on Sustainable Development considered a number of substantive issues at its April/May session, including changing consumption and production patterns and capacity-building in developing countries. A three-day high-level meeting with ministerial participation discussed preparations for the special session of the Assembly to be held in 1997 to discuss the implementation of Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In December, the Assembly decided to convene the special session from 23 to 27 June 1997 at the highest political level of participation.

In the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, which was observed in 1996, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission for Social Development discussed strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty. In his annual report, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) described the Programme's efforts to sharpen its focus on poverty eradication in 1996, while the Economic and Social Council adopted agreed conclusions on coordination of poverty eradication activities. In a December resolution, the Assembly decided that the theme for the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) would be "Eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind".

At its resumed fiftieth session from 15 to 19 April, the Assembly held plenary meetings devoted to public administration and development at which it considered the reports of a number of regional meetings on the

subject. The Assembly requested the United Nations to develop strategies for rebuilding a viable public administration in countries undergoing post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, and invited the Bretton Woods institutions and all relevant UN agencies and bodies to assist Member States involved in economic restructuring programmes to pursue national policies aimed at improving the development and management of their human resources.

The implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was reviewed by the Commission for Sustainable Development and by the Assembly, which invited the Commission to continue its support for the Programme of Action as an integral part of the preparations for the Assembly's 1997 special session.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter II (pp. 759–793)

Operational activities for development

SYSTEM-WIDE ACTIVITIES, 759: Financing of operational activities, 766. TECHNICAL COOPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 767: UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, 769; UNDP operational activities, 769; Programme planning and management, 777; Financing, 783. OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION, 787: UN programmes, 787; UN Office for Project Services, 788; UN Volunteers, 790; Technical cooperation among developing countries, 792; UN Capital Development Fund, 792.

In 1996, the overall income of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—the central funding body of the UN system for providing technical assistance to developing countries—reached \$1,751 million, up from \$1,624 million in 1995. Voluntary contributions to the UNDP general fund, which accounted for \$848 million of the total, represented 49 per cent of income versus 57 per cent in 1995. The decline was offset by a relative increase in resources mobilized for specific activities, which accounted for 45 per cent of UNDP income in 1996.

During the year considerable progress was made in transforming the Programme's new focus—achieving sustainable human development—into reality. Activities were concentrated in the areas of poverty eradication; employment and sustainable livelihoods; the advancement and empowerment of women; and the sustainable management of environmental resources. The objectives of UNDP were embodied in a mission statement, which was endorsed by the Executive Board of UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in May. That statement stressed that national priorities constituted the frame of reference for national programming of operational activities for development within the UN system.

The Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations delivered technical cooperation programmes in the areas of public administration and development management, energy, the environment and assistance to countries in crisis. The United Nations Capital Development Fund, which funded small-scale projects totalling \$50 million in 1996, shifted its focus from infrastructure projects to reducing poverty through the promotion of good governance, a dynamic private sector and the participation of civil society in development initiatives. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries provided support to developing countries in its priority areas of trade and investment, macroeconomic policy development and coordination, poverty eradication and management of the environment.

As a separate entity within the United Nations as of 1995, the United Nations Office for Project Services executed development projects worth \$433 million in 1996. During the year, it acquired new business amounting to \$534 million, of which 37 per cent was funded by UNDP.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) marked its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1996 and moved its headquarters to Bonn, Germany. A total of 3,242 UNV specialists and fieldworkers from 137 countries served in 140 nations during the year.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter III (pp. 794–843)

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, 795: Coordination and resource mobilization, 795; Activities in Africa, 803; Activities in Asia, 818; Activities in the Americas, 824; Activities in Europe, 825. AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT, 828: New Agenda for the Development of Africa, 828; UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, 832. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 834: Djibouti, 834; States neighbouring South Africa, 836; Yemen, 836; States affected by sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), 836. DISASTER RELIEF, 838: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 839; Drought-stricken areas, 841; Hurricanes and cyclones, 841; Chernobyl aftermath, 842.

In 1996, the international community continued to respond to major humanitarian emergencies—notably in the Great Lakes region of Africa and countries of the former Yugoslavia, as well as Angola, Liberia, the Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq. Devastating natural disasters affecting countries in all parts of the world were also the focus of UN attention and aid.

Since the inception of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) in 1992, millions of the most vulnerable and needy had been given food, shelter and medical care. Tens of thousands of lost children had been reunited with their families, and millions of refugees had returned to their original homes or resettled in new communities. Many war-torn economies and societies were being rehabilitated, with UN assistance, and confidence was being restored among long-hostile neighbours.

During the year, DHA made six Consolidated Appeals for assistance to Africa, seeking \$1.2 billion from donors, with the needs of the Great Lakes region and Angola dominating. Almost three quarters of all the funds raised through Consolidated Appeals in 1996 were directed to two emergencies: those in the Great Lakes region and in the area of the former Yugoslavia.

On 15 March, the System-wide Special Initiative on Africa was launched to bring a more coherent and comprehensive approach by the UN system to Africa's needs and priorities. The largest coordinated UN action in support of a continent's peoples, the Special Initiative was a multi-billion-dollar programme to accelerate African development over the coming decade by expanding basic education and health care, promoting peace and better governance, and improving water and food security. It was intended to give impetus and act as an operational wing to the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. During the mid-term review of the New Agenda in September, the Secretary-General noted a marked improvement in Africa's economic performance over the first half of the decade and called for greater commitment by both African Governments and the international community to consolidate and extend the significant economic and political gains that had been achieved.

Responding in 1996 to 60 natural and two technological disasters in 46 countries, DHA mobilized and coordinated international assistance to disaster victims by distributing information, channelling immediate cash assistance, dispatching in-kind support and providing technical assistance. It issued 27 international disaster appeals, which generated donations of \$84 million in cash and in-kind contributions, \$6.2 million of which was channelled through DHA. A Consolidated Appeal, requesting \$44 million, was launched for the

flood-affected Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Appeals were also made for international assistance to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, which were struck by a hurricane, and to Madagascar, which had suffered major damage from a series of cyclones.

With more than 60 countries around the world affected by the presence of uncleared antipersonnel landmines and unexploded ordnance, DHA acted as focal point for all UN mine-clearance activities and related issues, which received increasing attention. The UN system further supported reconstruction and development efforts in the aftermath of conflict in a number of countries, among them Djibouti, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Somalia and Yemen.

Humanitarian assistance continued to be provided to some of the newly independent States of the former USSR, such as the three countries of the south Caucasus which were recovering from conflict—Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia—as well as Tajikistan, where continuing political instability compounded the severe economic crisis. Further assistance was also required in post-conflict Chechnya, Russian Federation. Special economic assistance was requested for several countries, including States neighbouring South Africa, to enable them to overcome the negative consequences of past acts of destabilization in the region; the Comoros, a least developed country whose economic difficulties had been compounded by an invasion of mercenaries in September 1995; and nations adversely affected by the imposition of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The importance of strengthening UN humanitarian assistance was underlined by the General Assembly, as well as the Economic and Social Council, in the light of the widespread acknowledgement that effective coordination of humanitarian assistance was crucial for saving lives, helping victims and encouraging local coping mechanisms.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IV (pp. 844–872)

International trade, finance and transport

UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, 844: UNCTAD IX, 844; UNCTAD programme, 849; Institutional matters, 851. INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 852: Trade policy, 853; Trade promotion and facilitation, 857; Commodities, 859. FINANCE, 861: Financial policy, 861; Investment, technology and related financial issues, 869. TRANSPORT, 870: Maritime transport, 870; Air transport, 871; Transport of dangerous goods, 871.

In 1996—the year of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IX)—world trade grew far less rapidly than in the previous two years. The volume of world exports grew by an estimated 5.8 per cent, well down from the 9 per cent growth rate of 1995. However, world trade growth had leaped in 1994 and 1995 and appeared to be returning to more normal rates of growth in 1996. The world's financial markets were heading for a 25 per cent increase in international medium- and long-term lending, with developing countries borrowing more in the first three quarters of the year than in all of 1995. Transition economies also continued to tap those markets, albeit in smaller amounts.

UNCTAD IX, which took place in Midrand, South Africa, from 27 April to 11 May, culminated in the adoption of the Midrand Declaration and a final document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development", which addressed the need to promote growth and sustainable development in a globalizing and liberalizing world economy. It observed that a particular challenge for the international community was the integration of developing countries into the global economy. Many of those countries, particularly in Africa, risked being left behind and marginalized in world trade, investment, commodities and capital markets. Following a frank assessment of UNCTAD's functioning, the Conference restructured the intergovernmental machinery, establishing three commissions of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board to perform integrated policy work in their areas of competence—trade in goods and services, and commodities; investment, technology and related financial issues; and enterprise, business facilitation and development. The Commissions on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, and on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues held their first sessions during the year.

In December, the General Assembly endorsed the outcome of UNCTAD IX, particularly "A Partnership for Growth and Development", and recognized UNCTAD's role as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

Having discussed questions of trade, environment and sustainable development, the Commission on Sustainable Development encouraged UNCTAD to propose positive measures to support developing countries' efforts to achieve sustainable development, focusing on capacity-building and support for national efforts to internalize environmental costs.

In the area of trade facilitation, the International Trade Centre, under the joint sponsorship of UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO), expended \$36.1 million on assisting developing countries and economies in transition to formulate and implement trade promotion programmes and to develop export opportunities.

In a report to the Assembly on global financial integration, the Secretary-General stated that technological advances had reduced the cost and increased the speed of international financial transactions. Although some developing countries had taken advantage of the globalization of finance, many had also been stung by the volatility of the flows. In December, the Assembly stressed that global financial integration presented new challenges and opportunities for the international community and that it should constitute an important element of the dialogue between the UN system and the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank group and the International Monetary Fund).

As to the developing country debt situation, the Assembly called on the international community and the private sector to take action to implement the commitments of the major UN conferences and summits on development, organized since the beginning of the 1990s, related to the question of external debt.

In the area of transport, the Assembly proclaimed 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day. Expert meetings were held regarding ports, maritime liens and mortgages, and the transport of dangerous goods.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter V (pp. 873–936)

Regional economic and social activities

REGIONAL COOPERATION, 873. AFRICA, 875: Economic and social trends, 876; Activities in 1996, 879; Programme, administrative and organizational questions, 888. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 889: Economic and social trends, 890; Activities in 1996, 892; Programme and organizational questions, 909; Subregional activities, 910. EUROPE, 912: Economic trends, 912; Activities in 1996, 915. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 919: Economic trends, 921; Activities in 1996, 923; Programme and organizational questions, 929. WESTERN ASIA, 931: Economic and social trends, 931; Activities in 1996, 934; Programme and organizational questions, 936.

In 1996, the five UN regional commissions continued to promote economic and social development in their respective regions. Four met for regular sessions during the year: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Bangkok, Thailand; the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in Geneva; and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) did not meet in 1996, having held its most recent biennial session in 1995.

In May, the General Assembly stated that the Economic and Social Council should provide for the review of the regional commissions, with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness as action- and policy-oriented bodies in the economic and development fields.

In July, the Council amended the terms of reference of ESCAP to change the name of Hong Kong to Hong Kong, China; to reflect the admission of Palau as a member of the Commission; and to include Turkey within the geographical scope of the Commission.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VI (pp. 937–950)

Natural resources, energy and cartography

NATURAL RESOURCES, 937: Water resources, 938; Mineral resources, 941. ENERGY, 944: New and renewable sources of energy, 944; Nuclear energy, 948

The use and conservation of natural resources, particularly water and minerals, and the efficiency and development of energy were the focus of attention of a number of United Nations bodies in 1996. Concerns set out in "Agenda 21", adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, were taken into consideration. The Economic and Social Council at its mid-year session took action on a number of issues related to water resources, minerals and energy, based on the work of two of its subsidiary bodies.

Water and mineral resources were dealt with by the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session in May. The Committee was informed that the world was facing a severe water crisis and, within three decades, more than 3 billion people could be plagued by water stress or scarcity. Preparations for a comprehensive assessment of the world's freshwater resources continued, and the need for an international code of water ethics was emphasized. The Committee recommended the establishment of a commission on mining and materials to consider how best to use new technology and methodologies to achieve sustainable use of resources, and the creation of a global geochemical database and of a global knowledge base on mineral resource potential. Appropriate arrangements to formalize small-scale mining were also called for.

The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, at its second session in February, emphasized energy management, stressing the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation. Among its recommendations were those urging the launching of a global initiative to expand decentralized rural electrification programmes in developing countries and accelerated research into all promising approaches to energy and materials efficiency. The energy potential of biomass resources—plant materials and animal wastes used as fuel sources—was reviewed.

The report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was presented in October by its Director General to the General Assembly, which took note of it and affirmed its confidence in the role of the Agency in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VII (pp. 951–973)

Environment

GENERAL ASPECTS, 951: UNCED follow-up, 951; Environment and sustainable development, 952. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND MECHANISMS, 953: Climate Change Convention, 953; Montreal Protocol and Ozone Convention, 955; Convention on Biological Diversity, 956; Convention to combat desertification, 958. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES, 960: The atmosphere, 960; Terrestrial ecosystems, 962; Marine ecosystems, 964; Conservation of wildlife, 970; Protection against harmful products and wastes, 970; Regional concerns, 972; Other matters, 973.

During the year, the United Nations was involved in efforts to solve environmental problems threatening the Earth's land masses, forests, fauna and flora, oceans and atmosphere. A variety of activities took place in follow-up to "Agenda 21," the wide-ranging action document adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992.

On 26 December 1996, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, adopted and opened for signature in 1994, entered into force. During the year, preparations were under way for the first Conference of the Parties, scheduled to be held in 1997.

In December 1996, the General Assembly endorsed the 1995 Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and stressed the need for States to implement the Programme. The Programme was designed to serve as a guide to devising and implementing sustained action to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities. In another action, the Assembly urged States, international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations to take action to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses.

The Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, established under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development, focused on various aspects of deforestation and forest degradation, while the Ad Hoc Working Group on Sectoral Issues addressed the problems of adverse impacts of human activity on the atmosphere and oceans.

The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity considered a report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, which discussed the elaboration of a protocol setting out procedures, including advanced information agreement, in the safe transfer, handling and use of any living modified organism resulting from biotechnology that might have an adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

On 10 December, the 1994 Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora entered into force, 60 days following the receipt of the fourth instrument of ratification or accession.

During the year, the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reviewed the implementation of the Convention and the progress

made in the negotiation of a protocol or another legal instrument to strengthen commitments on controlling emissions after the year 2000 of parties included in annex I to the Convention (developed and transition countries).

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the first two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. The meetings made progress in elaborating a number of draft articles essential for the mandatory application of the PIC procedure.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VIII (pp. 974–1006)

Population and human settlements

FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1994 CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, 974: UN Population Fund, 979; Other population activities, 990. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 992: UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), 992; UN Centre for Human Settlements, 1004.

In 1996, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) adopted the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, containing goals and principles, commitments and a global plan of action with strategies for implementation. Habitat II was the latest in a series of development-linked United Nations conferences and summits that began with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and included the 1994 Conference on Population and Development, the follow-up to which was pursued during the year.

By mid-1996, world population stood at 5.8 billion, an increase of 81 million persons, or 1.4 per cent over the previous year. The rate of increase continued to decline in 1996, from 1.72 per cent per annum between 1975 and 1990, and 1.48 per cent per annum between 1990 and 1995.

UN activities in the field of population during 1996 were guided by the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). At its February/March session, the Commission on Population and Development reviewed progress towards ICPD implementation, considered UN population programmes, particularly the work of the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, and discussed the flow of financial resources in international assistance for population activities. The Commission, which marked its fiftieth anniversary in 1996, followed a topic-oriented programme of work adopted by the Economic and Social Council, concentrating its session on the issue of reproductive rights and reproductive health.

During the year, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued efforts to implement the ICPD Programme of Action. Total contributions to the Fund reached \$302.5 million in 1996. The Fund adopted a new approach for resource allocation for population activities that paid special attention to countries in greatest need.

As in previous years, the work of the Population Division included analysis of demographic variables (fertility and family planning, mortality rates, and migration), world population projections, population policies and population information.

Habitat II, held 20 years after the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, was conceived as a conference of partnerships, in which representatives of local authorities and other groups of civil society participated fully. It was preceded by two years of intensive preparations designed to encourage the involvement of major groups such as local authorities, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, the private sector, labour unions, professionals' organizations, foundations, media, parliamentarians and academies of sciences. Those partner groups committed themselves to the Habitat Agenda, which was a global call to action at all levels. It offered, within a framework of goals, principles and commitments, a

vision of sustainable human settlements—where all had adequate shelter, a healthy and safe environment, basic services, and productive and freely chosen employment. The Istanbul Declaration—a high-level political statement that committed Governments to the Habitat Agenda's recommendations—and the Agenda itself were endorsed by the General Assembly in December. The Assembly also reaffirmed that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements should be designated as a focal point for the Agenda's implementation. The Centre began its implementation activities following the Conference.

The Commission on Human Settlements—the intergovernmental body with a central role in monitoring the Agenda's implementation—did not meet in 1996.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IX (pp. 1007–1054)

Social policy, crime prevention and human resources development

SOCIAL POLICY AND CULTURAL ISSUES, 1007: Social aspects of development, 1007; Cultural development, 1018. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 1019: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 1019; Follow-up to the 1995 Crime Congress, 1020; UN Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 1020; Transnational crime, 1024; Corruption, 1035; UN standards and norms, 1040; Death penalty, 1041; Other crime prevention and criminal justice issues, 1042. HUMAN RESOURCES, 1049: UN research and training institutes, 1049.

During 1996, the United Nations continued to promote activities aimed at social, cultural and human resource development. In addition, it implemented its crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

In May, the Commission for Social Development held a special session to consider its future role and strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty. In July, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should have primary responsibility for the follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit. The core issues addressed in those documents, adopted at the World Summit, were the enhancement of social integration, poverty alleviation and expansion of productive employment.

The General Assembly in December decided that the Commission should undertake preparations for the Assembly's special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. In other action relating to social development, the Assembly adopted a resolution concerning the role of cooperatives.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the principal policy-making body of the UN in crime prevention and criminal justice, at its fifth session in May, adopted resolutions dealing with the Tenth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in 2000, technical cooperation and interregional advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice, and strategic management of the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The Commission also took action on the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment, measures to prevent alien smuggling and measures to prevent illicit international trafficking in children.

UN efforts to combat organized transnational crime continued, with the General Assembly adopting the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security, based on a draft forwarded by the Commission. The Declaration set forth Member States' intention to protect the security and well-being of their citizens by taking measures and pledging mutual cooperation to combat serious transnational crime, including organized crime, illicit drug and arms trafficking, smuggling of other illicit articles, organized trafficking in persons, terrorist crimes and laundering of proceeds from serious crime. The Assembly also requested the Commission to consider the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime. Regarding corruption, the Assembly adopted an International Code of Conduct for Public Officials and the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions.

Concerning the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997), the Economic and Social Council in February postponed until 1997 consideration of the biennial progress report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the Decade's goals and objectives.

The Secretary-General in 1996 inaugurated the United Nations Staff College project; its curriculum, which was to be developed in coordination with organizations of the UN system, would aim to enhance substantive knowledge and technical skills and convey a system-wide vision of goals, strategies and opportunities for coordinated action.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter X (pp. (1055–1080)

Women

IMPLEMENTATION OF BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION, 1055: Critical areas of concern, 1055; Follow-up mechanisms, 1059. WOMEN'S RIGHTS, 1066. UN MACHINERY, 1074: Other matters, 1080.

In 1996, the United Nations launched a system-wide effort to begin implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women held in Beijing. The Platform for Action comprised a comprehensive plan designed to accelerate implementation of the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and promote the goals of equality, development and peace for all women. Together with the Beijing Declaration, it set out an agenda for women's empowerment which established a basic group of priority actions to be carried out by the year 2000. The Beijing Conference built upon the results of three previous United Nations conferences on women—in Mexico City in 1975, in Copenhagen in 1980 and in Nairobi in 1985.

The General Assembly in 1996 addressed Conference follow-up as well as issues related to United Nations mechanisms to advance the status of women and protect their human rights. Some current issues involved the girl child, violence against migrant workers, and traffic in women and girls. The Assembly also took action related to the situation of women in Palestine (see also PART ONE, Chapter VI).

The Economic and Social Council adopted a new multi-year work programme for the Commission on the Status of Women to facilitate Conference follow-up, and it endorsed a revised draft system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, for the period from 1996 to 2001. It also adopted resolutions on the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and improvement of the status of women in the UN Secretariat (see also PART FIVE, Chapter III).

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fortieth session (New York, 11-22 March), reviewed its mandate and work in relation to its role in implementing the outcome of the Beijing Conference. The 45-member Commission also addressed such issues as women and poverty; women and the media; child and dependant care; violence against women migrant workers; traffic in women and girls; women and children in armed conflicts; women and the Middle East peace process; mainstreaming the human rights of women; and elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In 1996, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its fifteenth session (New York, 15 January-2 February), examined reports from nine States parties to the 1979 Convention.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XI (pp. 1081–1097)

Children, youth and ageing persons

CHILDREN, 1081: UN Children's Fund, 1081. YOUTH, 1096. AGEING PERSONS, 1097.

During 1996, the year of its fiftieth anniversary, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to focus on improving the situation of children worldwide. In December, the General Assembly commended the Fund for its contribution in promoting child survival, development and protection. A new statement on the mission of UNICEF was adopted by the Executive Board in January, sending out a strong message of support and consensus on the core of the organization's work in the year of its anniversary.

UNICEF cooperated in programmes in 161 countries, the majority of which were in Africa. Total programme expenditures amounted to \$684 million, of which the biggest share was spent on child health, including the expanded programme on immunization and oral rehydration therapy. Approximately one fifth of the Fund's expenditures went into emergency operations.

In 1996, UNICEF continued to encourage adherence to the 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child (see also PART TWO, Chapter I). UNICEF also developed a framework for its emergency operations, including strategies regarding children in need of special protection. Its Executive Board reviewed the mid-decade goals of the 1990 World Summit for Children and urged all countries to develop strategies and programmes to achieve national goals for children by the year 2000. In December, the General Assembly welcomed the progress by most countries in achieving the goals.

In 1996, steps were also taken to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the Assembly in 1995.

The Economic and Social Council established an informal open-ended support group to assist the Commission for Social Development in the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons, to be observed in 1999.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XII (pp. 1098–1120)

Refugees and displaced persons

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, 1098: Programme policy, 1098; Enlargement of UNHCR Executive Committee, 1103; Financial and administrative questions, 1104. REFUGEE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE, 1106: Protection issues, 1106; Assistance measures, 1108; Regional activities, 1111.

In 1996, individuals being assisted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) totalled about 26 million. Of those, about half—13.2 million—were refugees, the number of whom had decreased somewhat from 14.5 million the year before. Others of concern to UNHCR included 3.3 million repatriated refugees in the early stages of reintegration, 4.7 million internally displaced persons, and 4.9 million others affected by humanitarian crises.

During the year, more than 1 million refugees returned to their country of origin, reflecting the increasing focus on voluntary repatriation. The conflict in eastern Zaire and the sudden and large-scale return of Rwandans from Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania posed unprecedented challenges.

Africa hosted some 9 million refugees, internally displaced persons and other people of concern to UNHCR in early 1996, of whom there were some 1.8 million in the Great Lakes region. The crisis in the region led to the return of over 1.2 million Rwandan refugees between July and December. In Mozambique, the repatriation and reintegration programme was successfully concluded, and, as a result of peace accords, Sierra Leone requested UNHCR assistance to repatriate some 380,000 Sierra Leoneans. Unfortunately, renewed fighting in Liberia led to new refugee flows.

In Central America, the successful conclusion of peace negotiations in Guatemala and the launching of a migratory stabilization plan for Guatemalan refugees in Mexico paved the way for definitive solutions to the last major group of Central American refugees.

In Asia and Oceania, the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees was successfully concluded, while UNHCR gradually reduced its programmes in Western Europe, shifting resources to the Baltic and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In Eastern Europe, it assisted refugees in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Chechnya (Russian Federation). A regional Conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in CIS countries and relevant neighbouring States was held in Geneva on 30 and 31 May. The General Assembly, in December, welcomed the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference, as well as the Joint Operational Strategy for 1996-2000, which continued the practical dimensions of implementing the Conference results.

In October, the UNHCR Executive Committee considered such topics as comprehensive approaches within a protection framework, conclusion of the CIS Conference on refugees, and coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance, as well as the budget structure and governance of UNHCR, and its working methods. The annual theme for the general debate was the pursuit and implementation of durable solutions to the problems of refugees.

The General Assembly urged States to ensure access for all asylum-seekers to fair procedures for the determination of refugee status and the granting of asylum. It deplored the fact that in certain situations, refugees, returnees and displaced persons had been subjected to armed attack, murder, rape and other human rights violations and threats to their personal security. It called on States to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, urged them and international organizations to support the High Commissioner's search for durable solutions to refugee problems and, underlining the interrelationship between protection and solutions, reiterated its support for the role of UNHCR in exploring further measures to ensure international protection to all who needed it. The Assembly called on Governments and donors to contribute to UNHCR programmes and to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from government sources and the private sector to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons were met.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIII (pp. 1121–1132)

Health, food and nutrition

HEALTH, 1121.FOODANDAGRICULTURE, 1126: Food aid, 1126; Food security, 1129. NUTRITION, 1132.

The United Nations continued in 1996 its work in promoting human health, delivering and coordinating food aid and monitoring trends in nutrition.

United Nations efforts to combat AIDS were coordinated by the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, which became fully operational on 1 January. Its main function was to strengthen national capacity to plan and implement financial and technical assistance in response to HIV/AIDS. Malaria became a more serious problem in 1996, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where a resistance to drugs had developed. The World Health Organization (WHO) led UN efforts to elaborate malaria control strategies. The situation of disabled persons, another major health concern of the United Nations, was reviewed in 1996, in particular the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 1993.

Food security for all was the main goal of the World Food Summit, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and held in Rome, Italy, in November. The Summit adopted a Plan of Action outlining a strategy for eradicating hunger in the world and ensuring universal food security. Welcoming the outcome of the Summit, the General Assembly called for implementation and follow-up of the Plan.

The World Food Programme (WFP)—a joint undertaking of the United Nations and FAO—continued to provide food aid to developing countries. In 1996, WFP provided 2.2 million tons of food to a total of 45.3 million people. With the support of donors, food aid was supplied to 84 countries at a cost of \$1.2 billion, most of which went to relief operations in the Great Lakes region of Africa, Afghanistan, Angola, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the nations of the former Yugoslavia.

Studies on nutrition were carried out by the Administrative Committee on Coordination's Subcommittee on Nutrition and the United Nations University, an autonomous academic institution within the UN system. The Subcommittee served as a point of harmonization for nutrition policies and activities of the system.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIV (pp. 1133–1165)

International drug control

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION, 1133: Conventions, 1133; International Narcotics Control Board, 1134; United Nations action, 1136. WORLD DRUG SITUATION, 1144. UN PROGRAMMES TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE, 1150: United Nations International Drug Control Programme, 1150; System-wide Action Plan, 1153; Global Programme of Action, 1154. COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, 1156: Major issues in 1996, 1156.

During 1996, the General Assembly renewed its commitment to further strengthening international cooperation and substantially increasing efforts against the cultivation for illegal purposes, illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and to controlling and preventing the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

The Assembly also decided that it would hold a special session on drug control in 1998. The Economic and Social Council's high-level segment in 1996 was devoted to international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities.

A well-founded framework for government action and international cooperation to combat drug abuse continued to be provided by drug control treaties and the 1990 Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme, established in 1991, continued to pursue subregional, regional and interregional cooperation between Governments to generate and strengthen the transnational political commitment essential to effective action to counter the drug problem. It supported comprehensive programmes dealing with different aspects of the global drug scourge, as well as advisory services through its technical cooperation programmes.

The International Narcotics Control Board continued to oversee the implementation of the three major international drug-control conventions and analysed the drug abuse situation worldwide, drawing attention to gaps and weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance, and assisting Governments in implementing treaty obligations.

The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs—the Organization's main policy-making body on drug control matters—addressed a number of issues, primarily the reduction of both the demand and the supply of illicit drugs, and issues of illicit trafficking.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XV (pp. 1166–1172)

Statistics

UN statistical bodies, 1166; Economic statistics, 1166; Social and demographic statistics, 1170; Technical cooperation, 1171; Other statistical activities, 1172.

In 1996, the United Nations continued its work programme in the area of statistics. In April, the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination reviewed, among other things, the work of the inter-agency task forces established by the Statistical Commission in 1993 in eight subject areas; followed up on the implementation of the System of National Accounts, also adopted in 1993; and discussed proposals on various statistical issues.

In May, the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities considered technical as well as policy and coordination issues. The Statistical Commission, which meets biennially, did not meet in 1996.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter I (pp. 1175–1184)
International Court of Justice

Judicial work of the Court, 1175; Organizational questions, 1183.

In 1996, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered two Judgments, two Advisory Opinions and nine Orders. It had pending before it 10 contentious and two advisory cases. One case was removed from its list. In another, a request for the indication of provisional measures was made.

On 28 February, the General Assembly and the Security Council elected Gonzalo Parra-Aranguren of Venezuela to fill a vacancy resulting from the death in 1995 of Judge Andres Aguilar Mawdsley. On 6 November, the Assembly and the Council extended the terms of three judges and elected two new ones for nine-year terms beginning 6 February 1997.

On 15 October, the President of the Court addressed the General Assembly on "The Limitations on the Contribution by the International Court of Justice to the Maintenance of Peace".

During the year, Paraguay and Poland deposited with the Secretary-General declarations recognizing as compulsory the jurisdiction of the Court; in the case of Poland, to replace and terminate its previous declaration of 25 September 1990. As a result, the number of States which had made such declarations rose to 60.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter II (pp. 1185–1201)
International tribunals

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, 1185: The Chambers, 1186; Office of the Prosecutor, 1187; The Registry, 1188; Cooperation of States, 1188; Financing the Tribunal, 1190. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA, 1194: First annual report, 1194; Financing the Tribunal, 1196. FUNCTIONING OF TRIBUNALS, 1201.

During the year, two international courts created by the United Nations to prosecute war criminals—one for the former Yugoslavia, one for Rwanda—continued to indict persons accused of genocide and other violations of international humanitarian law.

The International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, located in The Hague, Netherlands, continued to confirm public indictments and issue arrest warrants against the accused. On 7 May, the Trial Chambers commenced its first trial and had two other cases before it in the pre-trial phase.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, with its headquarters located in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, and its Office of the Prosecutor in Kigali, Rwanda, had indicted 14 suspects and held deferral hearings. In addition, three of the accused had made initial appearances before it.

Part Four: Legal questions

Chapter III (pp. 1202–1214)

Legal aspects of international political relations

INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION, 1202: Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind, 1204; International criminal jurisdiction, 1204; International liability, 1206; Non-navigational uses of international watercourses, 1206; State succession, 1207; State responsibility for wrongful acts, 1207. INTERNATIONAL STATE RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1207: Safety and security of UN and associated personnel, 1207; Measures to eliminate terrorism, 1208; Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 1211. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 1212: Protection of diplomats, 1212. TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS, 1213.

In 1996, the United Nations continued work on issues dealing with the legal aspects of international political and State relations.

The International Law Commission, at its forty-eighth session, continued work on the progressive codification of international law. In December, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Commission; expressed its appreciation for the completion of the final draft articles on the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind and the provisional draft articles on State responsibility; requested the Secretary-General to solicit from Member States written comments and observations on possible actions regarding the draft Code; and recommended that the Commission continue its work on those topics.

The Assembly decided to convene in 1998 a diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries in order to finalize and adopt a convention on the establishment of an international criminal court; and took note of the report of its Working Group of the Whole on the proposed convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses.

With regard to measures to eliminate international terrorism, the Assembly strongly condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable; called on all States to adopt measures to prevent it and to strengthen international cooperation to that end; and decided to establish an ad hoc committee to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorism.

As to measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, the Assembly, inter alia, strongly condemned acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations. States that had not done so were urged to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel; and an appeal was launched to all States to consider becoming parties to the additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter IV (pp. 1215–1220)
Law of the Sea

UNCONVENTIONONTHELAWOFTHESA, 1215: Institutions created by the Convention, 1217; Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, 1220.

The implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea continued to receive major attention in 1996. The provisions of the Convention had been further developed in two implementing agreements: the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, which was adopted in 1994 and entered into force on 28 July 1996; and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, adopted in 1995.

During 1996, the States parties to the Convention held their fourth (4-8 March) and fifth (24 July-2 August) meetings; the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, at its second session (11-22 March and 5-16 August), elected Satya N. Nandan (Fiji) as the Secretary-General of the Authority. The selection process for judges of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea was completed and the first executive session was held in October. At its regular session, the General Assembly granted observer status to the Seabed Authority and to the International Tribunal (see PART FIVE, Chapter IV).

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter V (pp. 1221–1241)
Other legal questions

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1221: Strengthening the role of the United Nations, 1221; UN Decade of International Law, 1225; Cooperation with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, 1231; Host country relations, 1231. INTERNATIONALECONOMIC LAW, 1234: International trade law, 1234; New international economic order, 1241.

In 1996, the United Nations continued to work on various aspects of international law, including international economic law.

In December, the General Assembly, taking note of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, requested that body to continue to consider maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, proposals concerning the Trusteeship Council, including its possible abolition, and the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter.

The Assembly discussed a report on the programme of activities for the third term (1995-1996) of the United Nations Decade of International Law (1990-1999) and approved a programme for the final term (1997-1999). In anticipation of the centennial in 1999 of the first International Peace Conference, the Assembly considered it desirable to draft a programme of action dedicated to the centennial and invited preliminary discussions to that end.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) continued work towards the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law. It finalized the Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings and completed and adopted the Model Law on Electronic Commerce.

The Assembly noted with appreciation the efforts of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, which had contributed to a decrease in the amount of diplomatic indebtedness, and welcomed its efforts to identify affordable health care programmes for the diplomatic community. The Committee continued to discuss travel restrictions imposed by the host country and the parking situation for diplomatic vehicles.

During the year, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs took measures to expedite the publication of the United Nations Treaty Series and to provide electronic access to the publication Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General through the Internet. In December, the Assembly endorsed the establishment of an electronic treaty database.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter I (pp. 1245–1272)

United Nations reform

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY, 1245: Review of Security Council membership and related matters, 1246; Revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 1249; Global conferences, 1259. ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL REFORM, 1261: Accountability, management improvement and oversight, 1262. INNOVATIVE FUNDING MECHANISMS, 1270.

In 1996, in the context of the rapidly evolving world situation, the United Nations was undergoing comprehensive change to meet new and emerging problems and tackle persistent problems in new ways. Institutional reform continued on three levels: intergovernmental, organizational and managerial. Reform was high on the Secretary-General's agenda, as well as on the agenda of the intergovernmental machinery, in particular through the work programme of the General Assembly. Five working groups of the Assembly were addressing major aspects of reform.

Further concrete reform measures were introduced in 1996, and substantial progress continued to be made in strengthening administrative procedures, adapting peacekeeping to new circumstances and improving the effectiveness and coherence of development operations.

In May, the Assembly set the stage for further streamlining and strengthening of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields. The Economic and Social Council responded by initiating a review of the mandate, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert bodies. It also reviewed the agenda of its general segment and requested the regional commissions to continue undertaking their own review. In support of the follow-up to major conferences and implementation of their results, coordinating interagency mechanisms were set up and closer links were being established between the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

Managerial reform was also well under way in 1996, accompanied by simplification of Secretariat structures, rationalization of both the multiplicity of programmes and funds and their relationships with the Secretariat, and a reduction in high-level posts. Significant progress was made in each of three strategic areas: human resources, cost structure, and information and technology. Efficiency reviews were carried out resulting in a 10 per cent budget reduction, as well as improved services and operations.

As part of the Secretariat reform, efforts to strengthen internal and external oversight mechanisms continued. In carrying out its monitoring, internal audit, inspection and evaluation, as well as investigation functions, the Office of Internal Oversight Services increasingly contributed to better programme design and delivery. In order to improve its external oversight, inspection and evaluation functions, the Joint Inspection Unit strengthened its cooperation with the legislative bodies and secretariats of participating organizations and developed a revised set of internal standards and guidelines for its work.

Despite the ongoing reform of the Organization, there were indications of a diminished willingness to deal with critical issues on the international agenda through the United Nations, according to the Secretary-General. Most notable was the ongoing financial crisis which remained a matter of urgent concern. As the flow of resources continued to decline, new ways to raise funds were being sought. The Economic and Social

Council discussed innovative funding mechanisms for development activities, underlining the role of private investment in financing development, but stressing that such resources should not replace official development assistance and should be distinct from funding the regular and the peacekeeping budgets.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions
Chapter II (pp. 1273–1311)
United Nations financing and programming

FINANCIAL SITUATION, 1273. UN BUDGET, 1277: Budget for 1996-1997, 1277; Programme budget outline for 1998-1999, 1286. CONTRIBUTIONS, 1289: Assessments, 1289. ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING, 1296: Common accounting standards, 1298. PROGRAMME PLANNING, 1299: Medium-term plan 1998-2001, 1299; Programme performance for 1994-1995, 1302.

In 1996, the United Nations financial crisis remained precarious, with unpaid contributions totalling some \$2.2 billion, bringing the Organization to the edge of insolvency. A High-level Working Group established in 1994 to search for solutions to the financial difficulties facing the Organization continued its efforts, and the Secretary-General presented proposals for possible savings of \$140 million, through reduced staffing and other economy measures.

The General Assembly in December adopted revised budget appropriations of \$2.6 billion for the 1996-1997 biennium, about \$5 million less than it had originally approved. A negative growth rate budget was being prepared for the 1998-1999 biennium, totalling about \$2.5 billion and focusing on the following priorities: maintenance of international peace and security; promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development; development of Africa; promotion of human rights, and of justice and international law; humanitarian assistance coordination; disarmament; and drug control, crime prevention and the fight against international terrorism.

A special session of the Committee on Contributions was convened in 1996 to consider whether certain Member States in arrears should be allowed to continue to vote in the Assembly. The Assembly decided that the failure of four countries—the Comoros, Liberia, Rwanda and Tajikistan—to pay the minimum amount necessary to retain their voting rights was beyond their control, and that they should be permitted to vote through its fifty-first session.

The Committee on Contributions, at its regular session, continued its comprehensive review of all aspects of the methodology of the scale of assessments of Member State contributions to the UN budget, including factors which determined States' capacity to pay, repeatedly reaffirmed as the fundamental criterion for apportioning the Organization's expenses. The Assembly decided to continue its consideration of the scale as a matter of priority at its resumed fifty-first session and to approve, no later than 31 March 1997, methodology that would instruct the Committee on recommending a scale for the period 1998-2000.

The United Nations Board of Auditors transmitted 14 financial reports and audited financial statements for the biennium 1994-1995, on the United Nations itself, on UN peacekeeping operations and on 12 UN entities, having carried out "horizontal" audits of programme planning, performance, monitoring, budgetary assumptions, programme budget reporting and internal audit functions. In line with the trend towards greater harmonization in budgetary and financial matters, the Secretary-General, in October, presented revised accounting standards for the UN system.

The General Assembly in December adopted the medium-term plan for 1998-2001, reaffirming it as the principal policy directive of the United Nations and as a framework for the formulation of the biennial

programme budgets. Another useful tool for improving the programme planning and budgetary process was the Secretary-General's report on programme performance of the United Nations for the 1994-1995 biennium, the findings of which were to provide feedback for the formulation of programmes and for enhancing their implementation. The importance of the role of evaluation in programme design, delivery and policy directives was underlined in a report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter III (pp. 1312–1340)

United Nations staff

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL, 1312. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, 1314: International Civil Service Commission, 1314; Remuneration issues, 1315. OTHER STAFF MATTERS, 1323: Personnel policies, 1323; UN Joint Staff Pension Fund, 1333; Travel-related matters, 1338; Administration of justice, 1339; Reform of the international justice system, 1340.

In 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appointed Kofi Annan of Ghana to a five-year term as Secretary-General of the United Nations beginning on 1 January 1997. He was to become the seventh Secretary-General since the establishment of the Organization. The General Assembly expressed its appreciation to outgoing Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt for his contribution to international peace and security and development, his services in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and his commitment towards a just and peaceful world.

Mr. Annan, a United Nations staff member for more than 30 years, has had a remarkably varied career, focusing not only on questions of management—administration, budget, finance and personnel—but also on refugee issues and peacekeeping. He has also carried out a number of sensitive diplomatic assignments, including negotiating the repatriation of over 900 international staff and the release of Western hostages in Iraq following that country's invasion of Kuwait in 1990; initiating discussions on the "oil-for-food" formula to ease the humanitarian crisis in Iraq; and overseeing the transition from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia to the multinational Implementation Force led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), following the 1995 Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement.

In 1996, the General Assembly also considered a number of questions related to the conditions of service of United Nations staff members. The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) made recommendations to the Assembly on the common scale of staff assessment used to determine pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories and General Service categories; level of dependency allowances; level of education grant; and mobility and hardship allowance. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to limit to a minimum the designation of special representatives, envoys and related positions and to avoid overlapping of their responsibilities; and invited the Sixth (Legal) Committee to examine, as a matter of priority, the legal implications of reform of the internal justice system of the UN Secretariat. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General and the heads of UN organizations to submit proposals on the introduction of a system of performance awards and bonuses and requested ICSC to review all issues relating to the post adjustment system. On the question of employment of retirees, the Assembly increased the remuneration ceiling across the board to \$22,000, and \$40,000 for language-service staff, and limited such employment in all cases to no more than six months per calendar year.

The principal of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund increased to \$16.9 billion during the year. In December, the Assembly decided to admit the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to membership in the Fund as of 1 January 1997.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter IV (pp. 1341–1385)

Institutional and administrative matters

INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY, 1341: General Assembly, 1341; Security Council, 1344; Economic and Social Council, 1347. COORDINATION, MONITORING AND COOPERATION, 1348: Institutional mechanisms, 1348; Other coordination matters, 1350. THE UN AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, 1352: Cooperation with organizations, 1352; Granting of observer status, 1358; Participation of organizations in UN work, 1359. CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 1368. UN INFORMATION SYSTEMS, 1376. OTHER MATTERS, 1380: Common services, 1380; Procurement reform, 1381; UN access control system, 1382; Inter-agency security, 1383; UN premises and property, 1383; UN Postal Administration, 1384.

In 1996, a number of institutional and administrative matters remained of concern to the United Nations. The General Assembly held its fifty-first session and its resumed fiftieth session. The Assembly granted observer status to the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

During the year, the Security Council held 114 formal meetings to deal with regional conflicts, peacekeeping operations and a wide variety of other issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council announced changes concerning its documentation and other procedural matters, including procedures for deleting items from the annual list of matters of which the Council was seized. It also strengthened measures on consultation and exchange of information with troop-contributing countries. The General Assembly called on the Council to adopt measures concerning the content of its future reports to the Assembly.

The Economic and Social Council held its 1996 organizational session in January, February, April and May, and its substantive session in June, July, October and November. The Council adopted several resolutions on a wide range of economic, social and related issues. It also granted consultative status in various categories to a number of non-governmental organizations.

Other UN bodies concerned with administrative and coordination matters, including the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Committee on Programme and Coordination and the Joint Inspection Unit, also continued their work in 1996.

The Committee on Conferences examined requests for changes to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996. It recommended measures to improve the utilization of conference-servicing resources, including the introduction of new technologies, and to limit and control documentation, particularly in the light of the UN reform process. In the area of information systems and telecommunications, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution on the need to harmonize and improve UN informatics systems. Progress was also reported in the implementation of the Integrated Management Information System.