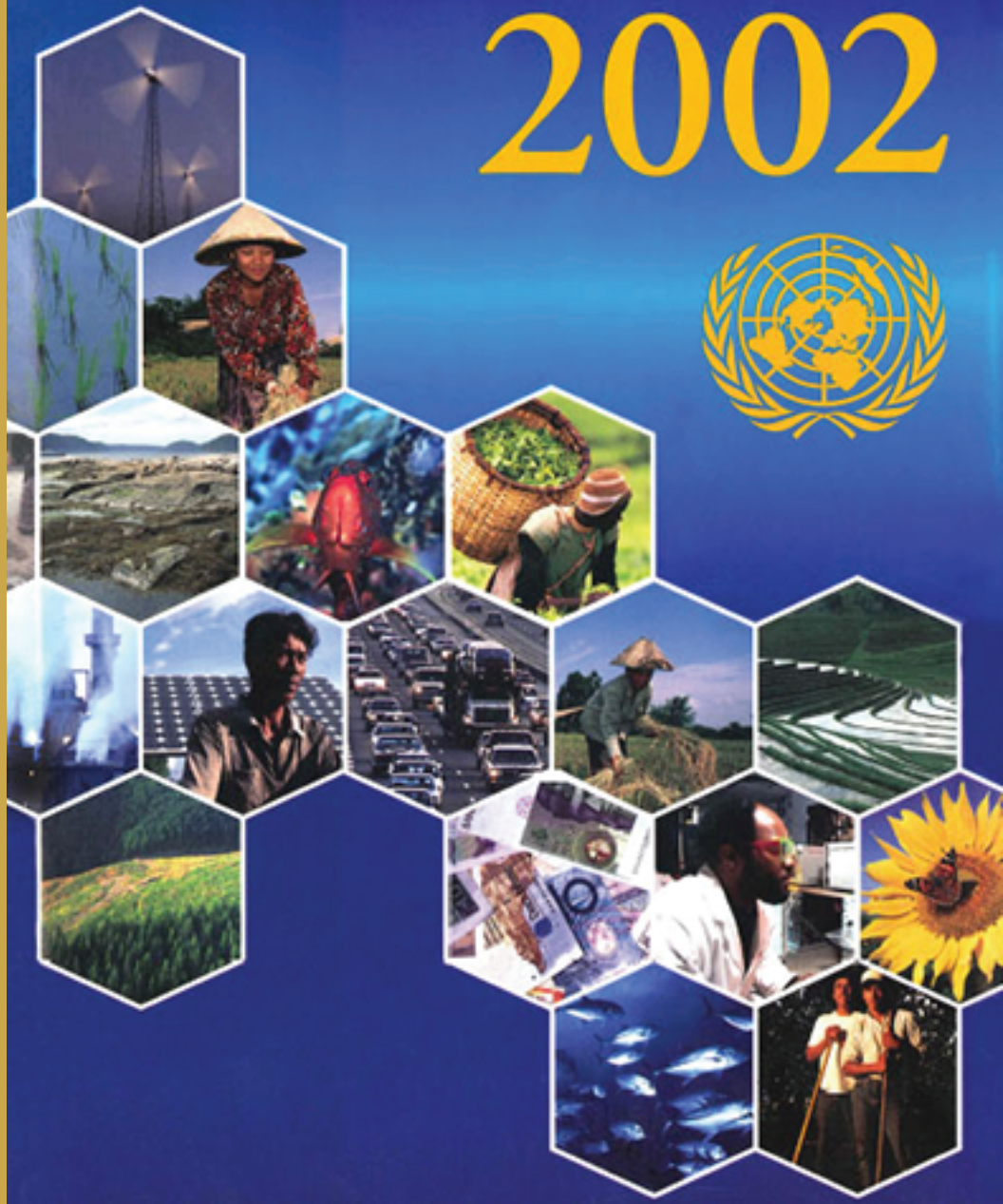


English Express

The Yearbook of the United Nations
Yearbook Express

Yearbook of the United Nations

2002



Volume 56



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, 2002

Volume 56

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

Chapter I Introduction

1. During the past year there have been extraordinary challenges to security and stability. The terrorist attacks in the United States of America on 11 September 2001 dramatized the global threat of terrorism and highlighted the need for a broad strategy to combat it. Already, the United Nations has played an important role in mobilizing international action in the global struggle against terrorism. We know, to our cost, that terrorism is not a new phenomenon; it has deep political, economic, social and psychological roots. I firmly believe that the terrorist menace must be suppressed, but States must ensure that counter-terrorist measures do not violate human rights

2. In the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September the international community has focused its attention on the challenge of reconstructing weak or collapsed States, like Afghanistan, which provide fertile breeding grounds for terrorism. Simultaneously, there has been a sharp escalation of violence and tension in the Middle East, in South Asia, and in Central Africa over the past year.

3. There were also positive developments on the international scene. East Timor gained independence and Sierra Leone held peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections. The conferences at Doha on trade, Monterrey on financing for development, and Johannesburg on sustainable development outlined steps that can help to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The entry into force of the Statute of the International Criminal Court was an unprecedented step forward for world order and justice. There was also increasingly widespread recognition that respect for international treaties and international law is essential for human security, stability and progress.

4. One of the basic truths of our time is that no single country has the capacity to cope with the political, economic, environmental and technological challenges of an interconnected world. Problems such as terrorism, mass refugee movements, HIV/AIDS, overpopulation, environmental degradation and pollution transcend national borders, and require international solutions— and the number of global problems requiring global solutions is continually growing. All nations stand to benefit from the constructive change that multilateralism makes possible, as well as the opportunities and solutions that it provides. Moreover, multilateral action is possible in many cases where unilateral involvement would be impossible or undesirable.

5. Fulfilling its role as a universal organization, the United Nations has helped to develop the principles and practice of multilateralism. The Organization is a unique instrument available to the world for dealing with critical global problems that require the collective resources and cooperation of all countries. It provides the common structures and institutions by which we can further our profound universal human interests.

6. The main concerns of the United Nations are of relevance to all nations, and affect the lives of ordinary people all over the world in many ways. As is evident in this report, the agenda of the United Nations is vast: achieving peace and security, combating poverty, meeting humanitarian commitments, promoting development, extending international law and human rights, and establishing partnerships with wide sections of civil society. These issues reflect the changing nature and growing complexity of international affairs; and the breadth of cooperation noted in this report bears witness to a fundamental commitment to improving the human condition. The results of our efforts are sometimes immediate and direct; sometimes they take a long time to be realized.

7. The award of the centennial Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations was a fitting recognition of its role as an instrument for making and maintaining peace, and promoting human rights. As the Nobel Committee put it, “the only negotiable route to global peace and cooperation goes by way of the United Nations”.

8. The United Nations is an imperfect institution with limitations; but every Member State has a stake in ensuring that the Organization continues to strive to achieve its purposes. The choice before us is clear. We can continue to increase our efforts to achieve international order and justice through negotiation and consensus, or we can return to an earlier age when conflicts of interest between States were resolved by other means.

9. Fifty-seven years after the United Nations was founded, it continues to grow in numbers, and membership remains a potent symbol of a country’s place in the community of nations. I am delighted to welcome East Timor and Switzerland as new Members, which will bring the number of Members of the United Nations to 191. I hope that all Member States, large and small, old and new, will continue to give their support to the United Nations and the principles for which it stands.

Chapter I

Achieving peace and security

10. The setbacks to international peace and security in the past year were numerous, from the rise in tensions between India and Pakistan to the deterioration in the Middle East, and from the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 against the United States to the eruption of violence in Liberia. It is no exaggeration to say that, to many people, the world felt like a much more dangerous place this year than it has for many years. There are however millions of people around the world for whom it has long been dangerous: people who live in conditions of extreme insecurity and poverty, and for whom progress towards peace and prosperity did not advance this past year as much as it should have. The people of the occupied Palestinian territory, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere would be justified in asking what more the international community and their own Governments can and should be doing to help them advance towards peace.

11. Significant progress, however, has been made in some areas. The people of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, have made a remarkable transition from more than two decades of war to the beginnings of a post-Taliban stability. In Angola, an entire population has, at last, the possibility of a peaceful future. It is the obligation of the international community to help them to achieve it. Prospects for peace seem better also in the Sudan and, in May 2002, the whole world celebrated with the East Timorese as their country gained its independence.

Conflict Prevention and Peace making

12. During the past year, the focus of implementation of the recommendations contained in my report of June 2001 on the prevention of armed conflict has been on securing greater cooperation with Governments, supporting subregional initiatives to promote peace and stability and encouraging the mainstreaming of conflict prevention into national development programmes. The development, humanitarian, human rights and political arms of the United Nations system will continue to work in concert for sustainable peace.

13. In the Middle East, an already tense situation was aggravated by a vicious circle of violence. Previously understood "red lines" were violated, with heavy loss of life on both sides. In March 2002, following a suicide bomb attack in the Israeli city of Netanya, the Israeli Defence Forces launched a massive operation in the West Bank, severely damaging the Palestinian security and civilian infrastructure, and provoking a humanitarian and human rights crisis. To address the situation, in April 2002 I proposed the establishment of a multinational force to help provide security for Israeli and Palestinian civilians, and to promote an environment conducive to the resumption of negotiations. While there is no consensus yet on such a force, its potential for generating momentum towards a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been widely recognized by the international community.

14. The Israeli incursion into the Jenin refugee camp led to allegations of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. In response, I offered to send an impartial fact-finding team to compile an accurate account of what had occurred. The Security Council in resolution 1405(2002) unanimously accepted my offer. Accordingly, I assembled an appropriate team. In view of the fact that Israel's subsequent concerns on this issue were fundamental in nature, I found it necessary to disband the team without its being able to visit the sites. In May 2002, the General Assembly requested me to submit a report on the events in Jenin and other Palestinian cities. That report was issued on 1 August 2002 (A/ES-10/186).

15. Amid these distressing circumstances, there were opportunities for progress towards a political settlement. In particular, the Security Council, in resolution 1397(2002), affirmed a vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, would live side by side within secure and recognized borders. The assistance of a third party is critical to help the parties emerge from the present cycle of destruction. To this end, I continue to maintain close and regular contacts with all concerned. I engaged in particular with the United States, the Russian Federation and the European Union, a group which has evolved into a new coordinating mechanism known as the Quartet.

16. At a meeting in Madrid in April 2002, the Quartet called for a three-pronged approach to comprehensively address security, economic and political concerns. In May 2002, in Washington, D.C., the Quartet announced its intention to work with the parties to hold an international peace conference focused on attaining the goal set out in resolution 1397(2002). In July 2002, in New York, the Quartet reached an agreement on the goals identified in the statement of the President of the United States of 24 June 2002, namely, two democratic States living side by side in peace and security; a complete and lasting halt to violence and terrorism;

an end to the occupation that began in 1967; a halt to settlements; reform of the Palestinian Authority's security and civilian institutions; the holding of elections; and the conclusion of permanent settlement negotiations on the outstanding issues within a defined time frame, namely, three years. Representatives of the Governments of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia had their first meeting with the Quartet at that time.

17. Since the departure of the United Nations Special Commission from Iraq in 1998, United Nations arms inspectors have not been allowed into the country to verify its adherence to Security Council resolutions on its programme on weapons of mass destruction. The pace of my dialogue with the Government of Iraq has, however, accelerated. Since March 2002, I have held several rounds of meetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission remains ready to resume on-the-ground inspections. In an effort to minimize hardships for the civilian population of Iraq, the Security Council in May 2002 unanimously adopted resolution 1409(2002), designed to increase the flow of humanitarian goods into Iraq. A more comprehensive easing of sanctions, however, continues to depend on Iraq's full compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

18. The Government of Iraq continues to reject Security Council resolution 1284(1999), on the question of Kuwaiti and third-country missing persons and seized property. Recently, Iraq undertook to return documents belonging to the Kuwaiti national archives, and my High-level Coordinator was able to participate in my meetings with the Iraqi Foreign Minister in July 2002. I have proposed the re-establishment of a United Nations mechanism for the return of the national archives and other Kuwaiti property, and the Governments of Kuwait and Iraq have accepted that proposal. Iraq has repeatedly refused to meet with my High-level Coordinator to discuss the question of missing persons. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq recently visited the country for the first time in nine years.

19. While developments in Africa over the past year, such as progress in negotiations to settle the long-standing conflict in southern Sudan, and Africa's commitment to promoting democratic governance and preventing armed conflict, gave some reason for optimism, the devastation caused by conflict on that continent has demonstrated the costs of not acting quickly to prevent conflict. The United Nations has continued to work closely with Governments, opposition parties and civil society to provide assistance in maintaining socio-political stability. Strategies have included measures to alleviate poverty, consolidate democracy, promote the rule of law, enhance respect for human rights and facilitate the return and resettlement of refugees and displaced people.

20. I dispatched senior envoys to the Central African Republic in the wake of a failed coup in May 2001, to the Gambia in October 2001 and January 2002, and to Cameroon in June 2002, at the time of critical elections in those countries. Those missions helped to restore dialogue among government and opposition leaders, allowing democratic processes, including elections, to proceed. During my visit to Nigeria in July 2002, I explored with the President, Olusegun Obasanjo, practical ways for the United Nations to assist the Government, and society as a whole, to create a stable environment before the 2003 presidential elections. Upon a request from the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria, the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs sent a needs-assessment mission to Nigeria in May 2002, and is currently preparing a programme of electoral assistance for the 2003 elections. The United Nations supported the Government of Nigeria in organizing the Niger Delta Conference, in December 2001, which developed options for promoting stability and development in that region. In the Niger, the United Nations, in partnership with the Government, organized a National Forum on Conflict Prevention in July 2001, which brought together government officials, representatives of civil society and traditional and religious leaders to promote a strategy for improving national capacities for conflict prevention.

21. The situation in Angola changed dramatically after the death, in February 2002, of Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Negotiations between the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA led to a ceasefire agreement at the end of March 2002, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding covering demilitarization in April 2002. Although the United Nations entered reservations on the provision on general amnesty, the Organization signed the Memorandum as a witness, and has begun to assist in its implementation. My Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa has held intensive consultations with Angolan parties, at their request, on implementing the Memorandum of Understanding. On the basis of the findings of an inter-agency Technical Assessment Mission sent to Angola in June 2002, I have proposed a revised structure of the United Nations presence in Angola to better assist the parties. In this new and promising political context, I note that both parties have publicly affirmed their commitment to lasting peace and reconciliation.

22. In Burundi, substantial progress was made in the implementation of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation. The Transitional Government was established in November 2001 and the Implementation Monitoring Committee, chaired by my Special Representative, returned to Bujumbura. As a result of the deployment of the South African special protection unit, exiled political leaders were able to return to Burundi to participate in the Transitional Government, the National Assembly and the Senate. Ceasefire negotiations have however failed to produce tangible results so far, and fighting between the army and armed groups continues to impede the implementation of the Arusha Agreement. To build confidence in the peace process, it is important that a durable ceasefire be reached and that all stakeholders make every effort to implement the provisions of the Agreement.

23. Very limited progress was achieved in Western Sahara over the past year. My Personal Envoy has continued to pursue intensive consultations with all relevant parties on possible options and I welcome the support and encouragement that the Security Council has extended to him. I remain hopeful that an early political resolution, providing for self-determination, will bring an end to this long-standing dispute. With respect to Somalia, progress towards peace has been slow despite the efforts of the “frontline States” of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to assist the Somali parties in holding a National Reconciliation Conference. I hope that the newly created Contact Group on Somalia will help to narrow the differences among the IGAD front-line States, thus increasing the effectiveness of the mediation process. In the Sudan, renewed mediation efforts by IGAD with enhanced assistance from the IGAD Partners Forum led to significant agreements on some outstanding issues in July 2002. My Adviser will be attending the next round of the IGAD-led talks, from mid-August 2002, where, I hope, a definitive agreement will be reached to end the war in the Sudan.

24. In South Asia, an abrupt escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan during the first half of 2002 created great international anxiety. The situation remains volatile, and an outbreak of hostilities between these two countries with nuclear weapon capabilities has the potential to escalate with terrible consequences. At the same time, there can be no tolerance for either incursions across the Line of Control or terrorist acts of any kind in the region. I have consistently appealed to the parties to resume their bilateral dialogue and to resolve their differences, over Kashmir in particular, by peaceful means. I encourage both sides to reduce their military contingents stationed in Kashmir, and to consider other measures and initiatives aimed at further reducing tensions. My own good offices remain available to both sides to promote a peaceful solution.

25. I am encouraged by the progress made in the peace process in Sri Lanka, facilitated by Norway. At the request of the Government of Sri Lanka, the United Nations system is providing developmental and humanitarian assistance to support and promote this process. In Nepal, however, I am increasingly concerned by the escalation of violence between the Government and the armed insurgency. If requested, I would positively consider the use of my good offices to help achieve a peaceful solution. In the meantime, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) dispatched an innovative “conflict assessment mission” to Nepal in May 2002 to explore ways of targeting the delivery of assistance so as not to further aggravate economic and social inequities.

26. In East Asia, I remain ready to assist and support all efforts aimed at fostering interKorean reconciliation through dialogue and cooperation. I urge Member States, for their part, to actively seek creative strategies to encourage rapprochement on the peninsula, and to strengthen peace and stability in the region.

27. In Myanmar, I have used my good offices to facilitate national reconciliation and democratization. An important development occurred on 6 May 2002, when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was allowed to resume her normal political activities as the General Secretary of the National League for Democracy. This marked a new beginning for the national reconciliation process that began in October 2000. I will continue to do my utmost, together with my Special Envoy and with support from interested Member States, to facilitate that process in accordance with General Assembly resolutions that call for national reconciliation and democratization in Myanmar.

28. In May 2002 I visited Indonesia. I noted the concerted efforts being made by United Nations organizations, funds and programmes to support the Government’s pursuit of political, economic and social reforms. I still firmly believe that Indonesia’s national unity and territorial integrity can best be ensured by adherence to democratic norms and the promotion of human rights. I intend to enhance United Nations efforts to assist the Government as it seeks to promote good governance and to establish a stable, democratic and prosperous society.

29. In the Pacific region, the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (signed in August 2001) between the Bougainville parties and the Government of Papua New Guinea is progressing. I am heartened by

advances made in weapons disposal, in which the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville has taken a lead role at the request of the parties. A joint mission composed of members of the Departments of Political Affairs, Disarmament Affairs and Economic and Social Affairs was dispatched to Bougainville in May 2002 to identify measures for enhancing disarmament efforts. The United Nations remains ready to work with the international community, especially other States in the region, the Government of Papua New Guinea, and the Bougainville parties to fulfil all elements of the Peace Agreement.

30. In Latin America, my Special Adviser on Colombia continued to assist peace efforts in that country through regular contacts with the Government, guerrilla groups, civil society and the international community. Early in January 2002 my Acting Special Adviser, the group of 10 facilitating countries, and the Catholic Church helped to avert a breakdown in the peace talks between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Unfortunately, similar efforts in February 2002 were unable to prevent the talks from collapsing. Talks with the smaller guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army, continued intermittently throughout this period, but these ended in May 2002. I am concerned that the breakdown of these negotiations will have grave effects both nationally and regionally. The civilian population of Colombia continues to bear the brunt of the conflict, owing to frequent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by all parties. I have urged the parties to sign a humanitarian agreement that would protect the civilian population and ensure full respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. In June 2002, I met the President elect, Alvaro Uribe Vélez. In a useful exchange on the situation in Colombia, we discussed how the United Nations can most effectively assist the Colombian people. The United Nations stands ready to provide further assistance in promoting a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

31. The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala has continued to oversee compliance with the peace agreements reached in 1996. Owing to the complexity of the agreements, the implementation timeline was extended until 2004 but, despite the stated commitment of the Government, the new deadlines are not being met. Increasing political polarization because of the approaching elections has also impeded implementation of the agreements. Regrettably, this past year has seen a rise in human rights violations, increased poverty and hunger, and indications of the remilitarization of society. The renewed commitment to the agreements exhibited at the Consultative Group meeting held in Washington in February 2002 has, however, given some cause for optimism. The commitment of the people and the Government of Guatemala must be redoubled to realize the promise embodied in the 1996 agreements.

32. My hopes for a political dialogue between the Government of Haiti and its opposition were not fulfilled in the past year. Despite efforts by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community to promote dialogue, neither party has made the compromises necessary for meaningful negotiations. This failure has prevented the release of urgently needed development assistance. I welcome the establishment of the OAS Special Mission to Strengthen Democracy in Haiti, in particular its focus on the promotion of security, justice, human rights and governance. The comprehensive transition programme coordinated by UNDP, following the closure of the United Nations International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti in 2001, remains a valuable complement to these efforts.

33. In Cyprus, direct talks between the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots began following an agreement reached in December 2001. The talks have been taking place in the United Nations Protected Area, and in the presence of my Special Adviser. I travelled to Cyprus in May 2002 to encourage the two leaders to quicken the pace of the talks, resolve the key issues and achieve a comprehensive settlement this year. I will meet both leaders again on 6 September with a view to taking stock of the current talks and charting a course for the way ahead. In the meantime, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus continued to monitor the buffer zone across Cyprus.

Peacekeeping and peace-building

34. On 20 May 2002, the United Nations successfully concluded the transitional administration of East Timor. It was a privilege to witness the birth of an independent East Timor, and to hand over authority from the United Nations to East Timor's first democratically elected President. In Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, specific powers were transferred from the United Nations mission to a democratically elected assembly in March 2002. In Sierra Leone, successful elections in May 2002 should lay the foundation for a peaceful future. In Afghanistan, many of the plans mapped out in the Bonn Agreement of December 2001 have been implemented, with the support of the United Nations Assistance Mission. Over 1 million refugees and internally displaced people have returned to their homes in Afghanistan since the beginning of 2002. While these

examples of progress in peace-building are welcome, much remains to be done in all United Nations peace missions.

35. The establishment of the Democratic Republic of East Timor led to the successful conclusion of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on 20 May 2002. The achievement is all the more remarkable in view of the state of destruction at the start of the UNTAET mandate, and the fact that institutions of national government never existed in East Timor. This accomplishment is above all the product of the determination, courage and patience of the East Timorese people, who were assisted by the international community and the United Nations in laying the foundations for political, social and economic development. UNTAET has been replaced by a new, smallscale peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET). While the mandate of UNMISSET does not entail full-scale administrative responsibilities, the Mission does retain responsibility for executive policing, and a substantial military component. It also has a number of civilian advisers in areas that are crucial for the continued stability and viability of the new Government.

36. In Afghanistan, the fall of the Taliban regime created a unique opportunity for peace and national reconciliation. Under United Nations auspices, the Afghan parties met in Bonn in December 2001, and agreed to a political process to secure a peaceful, democratic society where human rights are respected. As provided in the Bonn Agreement, the power-sharing Interim Authority was replaced in June 2002 by an indirectly elected Transitional Authority, following the successful conclusion of a nationwide traditional assembly, or Loya Jirga. It was particularly heartening to hear the voices of previously disenfranchised Afghan women at the Loya Jirga.

37. Mindful of the impact of the fall of the Taliban, and the Bonn Agreement, I recommended that an integrated United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) be created to assist the Afghans in implementing the Agreement, and to begin the immense task of reconstruction. The Security Council endorsed this recommendation, and UNAMA was established at the end of March 2002. My Special Representative for Afghanistan and UNAMA will continue to work closely with the Transitional Authority to secure the path to peace and sustainable development. UNAMA is a positive example of an integrated mission designed to support the political, governance and peace-building processes while simultaneously responding to urgent humanitarian and recovery needs.

38. In Sierra Leone, the United Nations has made good progress in implementing its peacekeeping mandate. The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) completed its deployment to all areas of the country in November 2001. A total of 47,000 combatants from all parties were disarmed and demobilized, and the process was completed on 17 January 2002. This paved the way for presidential and parliamentary elections, held in May 2002, according to the consensus reached at the National Consultative Conference in January 2002. The major challenge now is to consolidate the current fragile peace, and manage the transition to national recovery. Urgent efforts must be focused on extending the Government's authority throughout the country, completing the reintegration of ex-combatants, and promoting justice and national reconciliation.

39. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) continued to monitor the ceasefire and the Temporary Security Zone, verify the redeployment of Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, and coordinate mine action activities. In April 2002, the peace process entered a crucial phase when the Boundary Commission rendered its decision on the delimitation of the common border. Both parties publicly accepted the decision. It is important that the parties cooperate closely with the Boundary Commission and UNMEE during the implementation of the decision.

40. The deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has continued and the ceasefire has generally held, although serious incidences of armed conflict still occur, especially in the east of the country. The withdrawal of foreign forces, an essential requirement under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, has largely been accomplished, although the presence of foreign forces in the east of the country remains a significant problem. A major element in the MONUC mandate is the voluntary disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of armed groups, a programme which depends upon a political accord at the Congolese and regional level. The participants in the inter-Congolese dialogue at Sun City, South Africa, in March and April 2002, could not reach an all-inclusive agreement. Consequently, in June 2002, I appointed a Special Envoy for the inter-Congolese dialogue to assist the parties in reaching an all-inclusive agreement to bring peace, national reconciliation and unity to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 30 July 2002, the heads of State of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda signed, at Pretoria, a peace agreement on the withdrawal of the Rwandan troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the dismantling of the ex-FAR and Interahamwe forces in that country with the assistance of the

United Nations. The agreement was facilitated by South Africa, whose President, Thabo Mbeki, is the first Chairman of the African Union. I shall soon submit my recommendation in this regard to the Security Council.

41. The United Nations Peace-building Support Offices in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia have continued to play a catalytic role in assisting those countries to emerge from conflict. Particular emphasis has been applied to promoting national reconciliation, consolidating the establishment of democratic processes, enhancing respect for human rights and the rule of law, and mobilizing international economic assistance. The offices have also been working closely with United Nations country teams to mainstream conflict prevention into national development programmes, within the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and by incorporating early warning and conflict prevention into programme formulation and priority setting.

42. I regret, however, the recent deterioration of the situation in Liberia. This compromises hopes for achieving sustainable peace after nearly a decade of destructive civil war in that country, and also undermines the successes achieved in neighbouring Sierra Leone. The cross-border movement of thousands of Liberian refugees, mixed with the potential for a mass return of refugees from Sierra Leone who are currently in Liberia, could have a serious effect on regional stability.

43. There were heightened tensions along the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon over the past year. In particular, there was a pronounced escalation in violent incidents across the line, both within and outside the Shab'a farms area, in March and April 2002. Although the situation stabilized in May 2002, the potential for deterioration remains significant. The Government of Lebanon has yet to take all the necessary steps to restore its authority throughout the south, where the activities of armed elements along the Blue Line keep the situation unstable. Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace have contributed to the tension. The Security Council has repeatedly called upon all parties concerned to respect fully the Blue Line, most recently in its resolution 1391(2002). The functions of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continue to be largely those of an observer mission. Accordingly, the Force has continued with its reconfiguration exercise, which has entailed implementation of a plan to reduce its numbers.

44. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) is in the final stages of implementing its core mandate of police reform and restructuring. It is preparing to hand over to a mission organized by the European Union at the end of 2002. Improvements in police performance have significantly contributed to 110,000 minority returns throughout the country, an unprecedented number, in 2001 and the first quarter of 2002. UNMIBH has provisionally authorized 17,000 police personnel and the final phase of certification has begun. Independent, professional commissioners now command most police administrations, despite some political resistance. The UNMIBH Special Trafficking Operations Programme has been instrumental in countering trafficking in women. The State Border Service has expanded rapidly, and now covers 88 per cent of the border. It plays a vital role in the fight against illegal migration, organized crime and terrorism.

45. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has focused on establishing the provisional institutions of self-government, following elections to the newly formed Kosovo Assembly in November 2001. In line with the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government, the provisional institutions of self-government have assumed public administration responsibilities, for instance for health care and education, while my Special Representative retains certain reserved powers, including powers over the police, justice and foreign relations. UNMIK has enhanced its dialogue with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since November 2001 with positive results, including the transfer to Kosovo, in March 2002, of the remaining Kosovo Albanian detainees from Serbian jails.

46. UNMIK has also focused on laying the foundations for economic progress, tackling crime and violence, and creating a fair and safe society. One element of this process has been the establishment of the Kosovo Police Service; currently 5,500 local police officers have been trained and are operational. Specific emphasis has also been placed on privatization, the return of Kosovo's ethnic minority populations, the situation in Mitrovica, and targeting organized crime and corruption. In order to facilitate a process that will determine the final status of Kosovo, without prejudging the outcome, my Special Representative has set down benchmarks that must be reached before such a process can begin.

47. The situation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, the area of responsibility of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), deteriorated in the second half of 2001, when several hundred irregulars infiltrated through the Kodori Valley from the Georgian side of the ceasefire line and clashed with Abkhaz forces. On 8 October 2001, a UNOMIG helicopter was shot down close to the entrance of the valley; all nine persons on board were killed. By November 2001, the fighting ended and, in the first quarter of 2002, the

tensions in the Kodori Valley subsided, not least because of the mediation efforts of my Special Representative and the resumed patrolling of UNOMIG. My Special Representative continues his efforts to forge a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. In December 2001, he obtained the full support of the group of Friends of the Secretary-General for Georgia for a package proposal to be presented to the parties as a basis for negotiations on the future status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia. Efforts continue to ensure that both sides will accept the package.

48. In Tajikistan, post-conflict peace-building processes are under way and developing successfully. The work of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building and the United Nations country team has helped to stabilize the political and security situation in the country, in particular by promoting good governance and strengthening civil society. Extremist groups, however, continue to pose a threat to the region.

49. Over the past year, the United Nations has continued to improve the management of peace operations, focusing on implementing the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. With strong support from the Member States, progress has been made on improving rapid deployment capacities, training, and integrated planning of peace operations. An important step has been taken towards meeting the challenge of rapid deployment within a 30- to 90-day time frame. I welcome the General Assembly's endorsement of the concept of strategic deployment stocks, which will enable the Secretariat to pre-position equipment to support one complex mission at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. Together with clearer pre-mandate commitment authority, the strategic deployment stocks will considerably improve the Secretariat's ability to provide timely logistics support and financing for rapidly deployed missions.

50. New posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations have increased capacity, and restructuring to take advantage of these new resources has helped to enhance management and planning. For the first time, a handbook for multidimensional peacekeeping is being prepared, as are more detailed standard operating procedures for military, mission support and public information. Improved techniques in mission planning and start-up have been piloted during the establishment of UNAMA, and the Department has expanded its civilian training cell, which provides administrative and logistics training for staff in field missions.

51. At Headquarters and in the field, lessons learned are being integrated into policy formulation, strategic planning and implementation. In particular, commitments to incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325(2000), are being fulfilled. I have appointed Gender Advisers in five missions: MONUC, UNMIK, UNMIBH, UNAMSIL and UNMISSET. A system-wide implementation plan prepared by the Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, outlines other efforts being made by the United Nations system to implement that resolution. Further, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1379(2001), taking action to protect children has become an explicit objective of United Nations peace operations. I have appointed Child Protection Advisers in MONUC and UNAMSIL. United Nations peacekeeping missions also now regularly include human rights components.

52. The United Nations has continued efforts to build national and regional peacekeeping capabilities, for example by reorienting military and police training towards improving the capacity of national and regional training centres. The Organization currently works with training institutes in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe to standardize peacekeeping training. Standardized training helps to ensure that peacekeeping troops are better prepared to integrate into a peacekeeping force, improving both United Nations and regional peacekeeping efforts.

53. Although the effort to reform and improve the management of peace operations is progressing well in the Secretariat and in the field, United Nations peacekeeping continues to be challenged by a shortage of troops. A number of countries that have historically taken the lead in contributing troops to peacekeeping operations are no longer significant contributors. Notwithstanding the critical importance of financial and political support provided by the Member States, troop contributions from a larger pool of countries are necessary to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping remains as effective an instrument as it should be.

54. The Security Council has continued, in its resolutions, to recognize the importance of mine action, and mine action is an integral and crucial component of peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Lebanon and Sierra Leone. Given the strong humanitarian focus of mine action, its inclusion has led to a more productive interaction between peacekeepers and the humanitarian community. In Lebanon, following the successful conclusion of an agreement between the United Nations, the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon, effective mine clearance started in May 2002, in the UNIFIL area. Over 7,000 antipersonnel landmines, in more than 30 minefields (for a total of 600,000 m²), have already been cleared. At

the same time, UNIFIL troops are marking minefields along the Blue Line, clearly identifying areas as safe or dangerous for local communities.

The United Nations and regional organizations

55. The United Nations continues to attach great importance to strengthening cooperation with regional organizations and arrangements. High-level meetings over the past several years have built a practical framework for cooperation in the fields of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in particular. The United Nations liaison office with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) continues to generate a wide range of collaborative programme activities between the two organizations. It is expected that this collaborative relationship between the United Nations and OAU will be further reviewed and redefined now that OAU has become the African Union.

56. During the past year, much progress was made in strengthening cooperation with the European Union. Particular emphasis was placed on cooperation in conflict prevention and crisis management. The United Nations and the European Union agreed to better coordinate their training programmes in conflict prevention, and their efforts to develop early warning mechanisms. In the framework of the annual policy dialogue between the two organizations, the Deputy Secretary-General travelled to Brussels in April 2002 to continue the process of high-level consultations between the European Union and the United Nations on ways of enhancing cooperation between the two organizations. The annual high-level consultations between the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe have been further strengthened by the participation of the European Union and the European Commission, a process now referred to as "tripartite plus". The aim is to rationalize the division of labour between these entities, specifically in peace-building and particularly in cases where they are co-deployed.

57. The current and potential security threats to the countries of Central Asia have prompted their Governments to strengthen institutions of regional cooperation. At Almaty, early in June 2002, after 10 years of patient discussions, 16 Asian countries held their first summit meeting, at which a new regional organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building in Asia, was created. A few days later, the leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which comprises China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, signed a charter transforming the group into a fully fledged international organization with a permanent secretariat in Beijing. It will, among other things, undertake joint efforts for the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the region and encourage effective cooperation among member States.

58. The establishment of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa is an important example of the commitment of the United Nations to working more closely with States, regional organizations and regional civil society to address the complex challenges of the subregion. I am grateful to the Government of Senegal for offering to host the Office, and for pledging its full support to it.

Electoral assistance

59. From September 2001 to June 2002, the United Nations received 17 requests for electoral assistance, and was able to respond in 14 cases. Electoral processes are evolving rapidly in many countries. As national expertise and capacities improve, the United Nations is increasingly being called on to provide more specialized technical assistance. The United Nations has also taken steps with partner organizations to refine and enhance the standards for international electoral assistance activities.

60. To keep pace with these transformations, innovative projects are being developed and piloted. Expert technical monitoring of elections is a non-intrusive means of providing international support and advice. Such a monitoring operation was conducted in Solomon Islands in 2001. Longerterm projects relating to civic education and capacity-building for election management bodies are being implemented, for example in Nigeria, and are contributing to building democracy between election cycles. In other cases, election monitoring bodies have requested comprehensive reviews of their electoral operations to streamline processes and ensure maximum cost-effectiveness in future elections.

61. Over the past year, two electoral processes in particular should be noted for their success: the parliamentary and presidential elections in East Timor, and presidential elections in Sierra Leone. In both cases, elections played an important role in broader international efforts to mitigate conflict and promote democratization.

Terrorism

62. In the past year, the Organization intensified its work in the fight against terrorism. Shortly after 11 September 2001, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373(2001) and the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/1 by consensus, and held a week-long debate in October. By resolution 1373(2001) the Security Council imposed binding obligations on Member States to suppress and prevent terrorism, and established a CounterTerrorism Committee to monitor the implementation of the resolution. In June 2002 an international symposium on combating international terrorism: the role of the United Nations was held by the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, which also initiated a programme to promote the ratification and implementation of the 12 universal legal instruments against terrorism.

Disarmament

63. There was little international cooperation in multilateral forums on disarmament this past year. Negotiations on nuclear disarmament and a treaty on fissile materials, as well as efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space, remained deadlocked in the Conference on Disarmament. The review of the Biological Weapons Convention was suspended until November 2002, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has still not entered into force.

64. I welcome the signing of the Moscow Treaty by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America on 24 May 2002, as a step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons. The world would be more secure, however, and relations among States more stable, if the reductions were made irreversible, transparent and verifiable. Those requirements are especially important in the light of the demise of the bilateral Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty on 13 June 2002, which was a cornerstone of strategic stability for 30 years. Another source of serious concern is the steep rise over the past year in global military spending, now estimated at \$839 billion.

65. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, an international effort to promote transparency and confidence-building among States that trade in seven categories of major conventional weapons. In 2001, the number of participants in the Register rose by 20 per cent, to a total of 118 States. There was also increased participation in the other transparency measure, the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures.

66. Regional initiatives are driving progress on implementing the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in 2001. United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, relying entirely on voluntary funding, have supported those initiatives and assisted regional programmes for weapon collection and destruction, and training in developing relevant legislation and regulations.

67. Partnerships between the United Nations, Governments, non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental organizations such as the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have resulted in progress on mine action and nearly halted the production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. Six States became parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines in 2001, bringing the total number of States parties to 124. The expansion of the scope of application of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to cover conflicts between and within States is another encouraging advance in international humanitarian and disarmament law.

68. Two groups of governmental experts, one on missiles in all their aspects and the other on disarmament and non-proliferation education, will complete studies for the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and I commend their reports for action by Member States.

Sanctions

69. Recent Security Council action has involved imposing targeted measures and modifying existing sanctions regimes to render them more effective. By resolution 1390(2002) the Security Council expanded counter-terrorist measures beyond the territory of Afghanistan to include individuals and entities linked to the Taliban movement, Osama bin Laden and the Al-Qa'idah organization. By resolution 1407 (2002) the Council established a panel of experts to make recommendations to improve enforcement of the embargo on weapons and military equipment concerning Somalia. Similarly, the Council renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Liberia to investigate compliance with, and possible violations of, existing sanctions measures, pursuant to resolutions 1395(2002) and 1408(2002). By resolution 1409(2002), the Council streamlined the sale and supply of humanitarian goods to benefit Iraq's civilian population, but strengthened control over military-related and dual-use items. Security Council sanctions measures were terminated in the cases of the Federal Republic of

Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, and the Sudan. In addition, the Council, by resolution 1412(2002), suspended the travel restrictions on members of UNITA for a period of 90 days.

70. With a view to addressing the possible humanitarian consequences of sanctions regimes, the Security Council is increasingly requesting evaluations of the impact of sanctions, assessments of the humanitarian implications of existing sanctions regimes and assessments prior to the imposition of sanctions. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, mandated to carry out assessments of the humanitarian implications of sanctions, is developing a standardized methodology to assess the potential effects of sanctions on vulnerable populations in advance of, during, or following the termination of sanctions regimes.

71. I am encouraged by the ongoing efforts at the intergovernmental and expert levels to design “smarter” Security Council sanctions measures. The Interlaken and Bonn-Berlin processes sought to sharpen such measures by focusing them on targeted leaders and non-State actors, minimizing their adverse humanitarian or economic effects on third States. The current Stockholm process focuses on the implementation of targeted sanctions. The participation of partners, especially from the private sector, in these expert meetings can help to build the political will necessary for effective sanctions. Refining financial sanctions will shore up efforts to block financial flows used for terrorist activities, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373(2001). Finally, in addition to being an effective means to resolve conflicts, targeted sanctions could play an important deterrent role and contribute to an overall strategy for preventive diplomacy

Chapter II

Meeting humanitarian commitments

72. The scale and diversity of the humanitarian challenges of the past year have underlined the need to further strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations to respond, quickly and effectively, and to offer comprehensive protection to civilians facing war and natural disaster. In a number of regions, particularly in Africa, longstanding humanitarian crises, many of which were intimately linked to protracted and violent intra-State and regional conflicts, continued unabated. Natural disasters, environmental emergencies and the spread of infectious diseases, most notably HIV/AIDS, have also caused great loss of life. 73. The range of current crises has demanded a flexible, strategic and system-wide response linking the provision of emergency assistance to the search for sustainable solutions. The protection of civilians is at the centre of the wider United Nations response to complex emergencies. Although the means may vary by country and region, in all situations the United Nations focuses on its areas of comparative advantage, and builds strong partnerships with other international institutions, as well as with Governments and non-governmental organizations.

The challenge of protecting and assisting refugees

74. Alarming numbers of civilians—more than 50 million all told—continue to be displaced worldwide because of either natural disasters or armed conflict. While peace initiatives in countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka have provided opportunities for the reintegration of large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, the deepening humanitarian crises in other countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas have caused new waves of displacement. Obstacles preventing access to displaced populations, lack of respect for basic human rights and humanitarian principles and insufficient funding continue to pose enormous challenges for United Nations agencies, and the wider humanitarian community, in their efforts to bring protection and assistance to the most vulnerable.

75. This context requires system-wide policies and mechanisms to ensure a more predictable and collaborative response to the problems of internal displacement. An inter-agency Unit on Internal Displacement was created in January 2002, under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator and in close cooperation with my Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, as well as with competent agencies. Already, the Unit has provided targeted support to country teams in humanitarian operations, using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as the overall framework for its work, in Afghanistan, Colombia, Guinea, Indonesia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe and elsewhere. It has also carried out field missions to assess the internal displacement situation, identify gaps in the response and make specific recommendations for improvement.

76. The response to problems of internal displacement rests primarily with the affected Member State. In a number of countries faced with severe displacement crises, the United Nations has worked closely with the national Government to develop response strategies adapted to the specific circumstances. This has included incorporating minimum operating standards into national legislation, as in Angola and, more recently, Uganda, to ensure that displaced populations are moved from temporary shelters in insecure areas to settlements free from

landmines and the risk of fighting, where basic services and protection can more readily be provided until return or permanent resettlement is possible. It has also allowed the United Nations to undertake negotiations with non-State actors to gain access to populations cut off from assistance, as in the Sudan and Colombia.

77. Of the millions of the world's displaced, refugees fall under the specific mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as do persons of concern to UNHCR. At the end of 2001, these numbered some 19.8 million people, comprising refugees, asylum-seekers, returning refugees in the early stages of reintegration and some internally displaced persons. In 2001, UNHCR launched an intensive process of engagement with States, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to revitalize the international refugee protection framework, and to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Global Consultations on International Protection also sought to enable States to address current refugee protection challenges in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation. The result of the Consultations is a comprehensive Agenda for Protection, which identifies key areas for improvement in protection and burden-sharing.

78. Positive developments in some countries allowed the return of over 700,000 refugees and internally displaced persons in 2001. Elsewhere, however, armed conflict and serious human rights violations led to new outflows of refugees, particularly in Africa. The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 led several States to adopt legal and practical measures to tighten asylum procedures. Some countries resorted to such measures as interception at sea in response to mixed movements of asylum-seekers and economic migrants.

79. In Africa, some 100,000 refugees from Sierra Leone voluntarily returned home from neighbouring countries as a result of greater stability since the end of the war, and the completion of the disarmament process. More than 50,000 refugees were repatriated from Ethiopia to north-western and north-eastern Somalia, and some 36,000 refugees returned to Eritrea from the Sudan. While these numbers are modest in relation to the total of 5 million refugees throughout Africa, they represent important progress.

80. Allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children by humanitarian workers and peacekeepers have compelled the humanitarian community to take swift action on a number of fronts for both refugees and internally displaced persons. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has created a Task Force which has set out recommendations for specific standards of behaviour for humanitarian workers; improved mechanisms of accountability and responsibility, particularly for managers; and strengthened systems for providing protection and assistance to populations affected by humanitarian crises.

81. In order to achieve sustainable returns, UNHCR has collaborated with development agencies including UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank. These partnerships have focused on addressing the transition from relief to development and ensuring that returnees can rebuild their lives and engage in productive activities.

82. There have been some hopeful developments in South-Eastern Europe. Initiatives in southern Serbia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, such as the creation of a multi-ethnic police force, have helped to curb new outbreaks of violence. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, European monitors and representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and UNHCR helped to rebuild confidence between communities; more than 80 per cent of the 170,000 displaced people were assisted in returning to their homes. Similarly, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia some 100,000 refugees and internally displaced persons have been able to go home. More than 800,000 people from these countries have not yet been able to return home, however. UNHCR is continuing its efforts to ensure that local authorities implement property laws and assist with the reconstruction of properties destroyed by war, two measures which can support the repatriation process.

83. There was a positive example of local integration in Mexico, where the Government naturalized more than 1,300 Guatemalan refugees who chose not to be repatriated. Organized resettlement to third countries continued to provide a durable solution for many refugees, including, in particular, victims of trauma and refugees facing serious protection problems in countries of first asylum. In total, some 33,100 refugees (44 per cent of them female) were resettled under the auspices of UNHCR in 2001. Twenty-five countries received refugees on a resettlement basis, although just 10 countries accounted for 98 per cent of resettlement arrivals.

84. Efforts have been made to accord special attention to women, children (including adolescents) and older refugees to ensure that their needs are properly identified and met in the planning and implementation of refugee operations. Approximately 1 million refugee children and adolescents were enrolled in education programmes supported by UNHCR, UNICEF and other humanitarian partners. Girls and young women constituted approximately 40 per cent of those enrolled. United Nations agencies have continued to promote access to

education, both as a fundamental human right and a means of reducing the risk of military recruitment, forced labour and prostitution among refugee children. Emphasis has also been placed on reducing the disproportionate effect of statelessness on women when they seek to register marriages and births, obtain recognition of traditional marriages, avoid being trafficked, pass their legal status to their stateless children or spouses, and secure documentation. UNHCR continues to campaign to promote accession to the relevant conventions on statelessness, with some positive results.

Delivering humanitarian services and dealing with underfunded emergencies

85. The challenges of delivering assistance and mobilizing adequate resources for underfunded emergencies remain much the same in 2002 as in recent years, and donor responses to United Nations Consolidated Appeals remain unsatisfactory. As the international security situation evolves as a result of counter-terrorist measures, and resources flood towards certain humanitarian situations, it is imperative that the international community pays close attention to and provides adequate resources for other humanitarian crises that are not so highly visible.

86. In response to the crisis in Afghanistan, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched one of its largest relief operations ever, almost doubling its assistance in the country, late in 2001, to reach more than 6 million people and position vital food stocks in advance of the difficult winter period. WFP continued to assist large segments of the world's poorest, most vulnerable and food insecure populations affected by natural calamities and man-made disasters. Thanks to a record level of contributions, it was able to assist 77 million people in 82 countries with almost 4.2 million tons of food aid, in the form of life-saving emergency food relief and assistance in protracted crisis situations. UNICEF assistance to the Afghan Ministry of Education ensured that over 2.9 million children returned to school by the time of the completion of the Back to School Campaign of March 2002.

87. Positive political developments have helped to improve humanitarian conditions, or have at least set the stage for expanded humanitarian assistance in a number of conflict zones. In Angola, the ceasefire agreement of 4 April 2002 vastly changed the humanitarian environment. At the beginning of 2002, humanitarian agencies were assisting 1.9 million vulnerable people. A further 800,000 vulnerable people are now accessible as a result of the ceasefire, some for the first time in several years. The health and nutritional status of many of these people, in particular women and children, is extremely poor and many need emergency aid. The specific health needs of women and adolescent girls, particularly with regard to reproductive health, require attention. A dramatic increase in resources will be necessary to cope with this new group of people in need of assistance.

88. The improvement in the security situation in Sierra Leone since January 2002 has allowed humanitarian agencies access to all parts of the country for the first time in 10 years. This has permitted UNICEF to support the expansion of primary school education by renovating schools, supplying teaching and learning materials and furniture, and providing refresher training for teachers. Education helps to restore normality, and plays a crucial role in the reintegration of child ex-combatants.

89. In many other places, however, peace negotiations have stalled and increased insecurity has rendered huge numbers of people inaccessible. In Liberia, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated considerably as a result of ongoing fighting between government forces and armed elements of the opposition movement. It is estimated that only 120,000 people are now receiving humanitarian assistance, while approximately 200,000 vulnerable and displaced persons remain inaccessible in rural areas. Yet the appeal for funds to meet needs in Liberia has met only a very limited response in 2002, and several United Nations agencies have not received any funding at all through the appeal. This has resulted in a critical inability to provide for such basic needs as shelter and water.

90. The humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained extremely poor. For United Nations humanitarian agencies, access remains the greatest constraint. They were forced, for example, to evacuate Shabunda in April 2002, when, according to nutritional surveys, the rate of global malnutrition among children under 5 was higher than 20 per cent. The humanitarian situation in the east has been of particular concern. The eruption in January 2002 of Mt. Nyiragongo, on the outskirts of Goma, forced almost the entire population of the city to flee temporarily. UNICEF and partner agencies provided assistance to more than 80,000 families affected by the eruption.

91. In the Sudan, the humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate. Protracted conflict in Eastern Equatoria, and elsewhere in the country, has uprooted families and prevents civilians from obtaining food, clean water, health care and education. The continuing abductions of women and children are also deeply troubling. In

January 2002, a ceasefire in the Nuba Mountains was brokered, allowing needs assessments and relief deliveries in this formerly unserved area.

92. In Iraq, the oil-for-food programme, established by Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and administered by the Office of the Iraq Programme, has continued to provide food, health, nutrition, housing, agriculture, water and sanitation. The delivery of health care improved in the 15 central and southern governorates of Iraq, mainly owing to a wider availability of local and imported drugs and an increase in the number of surgical operations and laboratory investigations performed. In the housing sector, in 2001, 14.9 million square metres of housing were built in the central and southern governorates, providing homes for approximately half a million people, and generating over 200,000 new jobs for skilled and unskilled workers.

93. In the past seven years more than US\$ 23 billion worth of humanitarian supplies and equipment has been delivered to Iraq under the programme, while more than \$10 billion worth of additional supplies are in the production and delivery pipeline. Yet there is a growing funding shortfall because of the drop in oil exports, and a corresponding drop in revenues available to the programme.

94. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provides education, health, relief and social services as well as income-generation programmes to more than 4 million Palestine refugees. As at 31 May 2002, donor pledges amounted to \$254.5 million, leaving an estimated deficit of \$53 million. A decline in funding would jeopardize the quality and extent of health and education services provided by the Agency. The major escalation in violence since February 2002 has led to the destruction of civic infrastructure on a very large scale. Many Palestinians, including refugees, who depended on the public sector services provided by the Palestinian Authority, are now expected to look to the Agency for relief. It is estimated that this would require additional expenditure by the Agency of \$46 million in the West Bank alone. The Agency is preparing to issue a supplementary appeal to cover these additional emergency costs. In view of this situation, I appointed my Personal Humanitarian Envoy to undertake a mission to assess the nature and scale of the humanitarian crisis in the region.

95. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United Nations and partner organizations have made some progress in meeting the basic needs of the population, and have supported efforts to create a transition to development. A critical lack of funding, particularly for essential drugs and emergency nutritional rehabilitation programmes, has, however, placed vulnerable groups fatally at risk, even though the threats are preventable. Of concern is the lack of funding for nutrition programmes. UNICEF has received less than 10 per cent of the funds required to support severely malnourished children, even though 2.5 million children under 5 and some 930,000 pregnant and nursing women are at risk. Similarly, in April 2002, WFP was forced to halt the distribution of cereals to children and the elderly, so as to preserve those resources for the most vulnerable persons.

96. With regard to child protection, a notable success in 2001 was the demobilization of more than 3,500 child soldiers in the Sudan, a product of more than 12 months' negotiation, planning and preparation. Other measures have included wide-ranging activities in humanitarian mine awareness in Somalia; programmes to develop the fostering of children without primary caregivers in Uganda; and campaigns to support birth registration in Angola.

97. Through National Immunization Days entire communities have been mobilized by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partner organizations, and children otherwise inaccessible to aid workers have been reached. These mass campaigns have already been held in a number of areas in conflict, including Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan. To allow this immunization work to be carried out in the midst of fighting, "days of tranquillity" have been negotiated with the warring parties, creating humanitarian ceasefires. Such initiatives have also led to non-health developments, for example in Sierra Leone, where the negotiations helped to move the peace process forward.

98. In April and May 2002, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP carried out a joint mission to assess six Southern African countries. Those countries are seriously affected by food shortages and are threatened by a range of other factors, including increased vulnerability resulting from HIV/AIDS. The assessment found that up to 13 million people may be at risk of starvation. As a result of the findings, the United Nations launched appeals in July 2002 for the affected countries, seeking \$611 million for relief assistance. The initial response has been positive.

99. The United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNICEF and UNDP are the principal entities involved in humanitarian mine action. UNICEF supports mine-awareness programmes in over 25 mine-affected countries and UNDP provides technical advice in 16 countries. The

humanitarian mine action programme, coordinated by the Mine Action Service in the province of Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, came to an end in December 2001, after two and a half years; all areas known to be affected by landmines or unexploded ordnance have been cleared to an acceptable residual level.

100. Attacks on humanitarian workers over the past year highlighted the importance of staff safety and security and, conversely, the need for an uncontested humanitarian presence on the ground. The lack of adequate security for the maintenance of humanitarian operations leading to the withdrawal of international assistance has been the primary impediment to reaching the vulnerable.

101. As a result of a growing recognition that staff security should be funded from the regular budget, the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator now has a full-time Security Coordinator at the Assistant Secretary-General level and a core budget, and has deployed 100 field security officers in crisis areas. Initiatives to improve security management have included establishing minimum operating security standards (which define basic security measures for a given country or operational environment), mandatory security training for 4,500 United Nations staff members working in high-risk environments, and the dissemination of information, selection criteria for security personnel and training standards and methodologies through the InterAgency Security Management Network.

102. Yet, despite the best efforts of the United Nations to provide its staff with the skills and resources to ensure operational security, during the first seven months of 2002 four United Nations staff members have been killed, and two abducted.

Natural disaster response: engaging developing countries and building capacity

103. The frequency and severity of natural disasters continue to increase, affecting, on average, around 200 million people per year, people who lose their homes, land and access to jobs. Increasingly, natural disasters have come to pose a threat to the gains made by development.

104. The United Nations system has been working closely with national Governments to strengthen their preventive and response capacities. UNDP has been advocating the inclusion of disaster risk considerations in all phases of national development planning, in particular for capacity-building in disaster prone countries in accordance with the goals of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

105. Where there are limited viable national mechanisms to respond to natural disasters, the United Nations assists through mobilization of resources and the provision of emergency and rehabilitation assistance to affected populations. In the first half of 2002, two natural disasters, both occurring within the context of ongoing complex emergencies, called for an integrated United Nations response in both the emergency and recovery phases of the disaster—the volcanic eruption in Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and an earthquake in Afghanistan.

106. Drought is currently affecting Southern Africa and Central Asia, and floods have recently hit Afghanistan, Central Europe, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and South Asia. The severity of climatic variation is likely to increase, leading to more drought and flooding. To help countries to be better prepared to cope with weather-related disasters, including a possible new El Niño cycle, the United Nations system is strengthening existing early warning systems as well as providing advice, education and training to increase resilience in the event of natural disasters.

Coordination of assistance and the protection of civilians in armed conflict

107. A principal role of the United Nations in the humanitarian field, in addition to providing direct relief, is the coordination of assistance and protection for people in distress. Today, the community of organizations and institutions around the world engaged in humanitarian work is larger and more varied than ever. Coordination therefore requires timely and efficacious planning, the avoidance of duplication, and efficient and effective delivery of emergency relief. Through the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator system, United Nations country teams have continued to promote the coherence of crisis response around the world, by providing in-country support to relief, rehabilitation and recovery activities.

108. In most situations, the United Nations acts in partnership with international and nongovernmental organizations to establish emergency coordination mechanisms, negotiate access, mobilize resources, and provide common services such as flight operations and communications.

109. During the past year, coordination work involved continuing assistance to long-standing complex emergencies. All 18 countries or regions for which the United Nations launched a Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal were areas that had already seen a prolonged United Nations humanitarian engagement. In every case,

coordination arrangements were reviewed or strengthened, and efforts to obtain increased funding continued. Coordination arrangements were most significantly revised in Afghanistan, resulting in the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, an integrated mission designed to support the political, governance and peace-building process while simultaneously responding to urgent humanitarian and recovery needs. UNAMA contains a relief recovery and reconstruction pillar, headed by my Deputy Special Representative, who performs the responsibilities of the Resident Coordinator, the Humanitarian Coordinator and the designated official for security. Supporting the field operations, a joint working group of the United Nations Development Group and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs has developed the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for Afghanistan, through which relief, recovery and rehabilitation activities are implemented by means of an integrated strategy, focusing on developing national capacity.

110. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan thus seeks to build a new model of strategic coordination with the Government of Afghanistan. Programme coordination at the national level is managed through eight programme secretariats that are responsible for assisting counterpart government departments. For each programme secretariat, a particular United Nations organization, fund or programme has been designated, for example UNICEF for education and WHO for health.

111. In November 2001, I issued my second report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The protection of civilians is an umbrella concept that embraces legal, military, humanitarian assistance and human rights concerns. Several practical measures have been taken during the past year. Child protection and gender advisers have been incorporated into peacekeeping missions; recent Security Council resolutions have advocated for safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, including women and children; and the Council is considering designing sanctions in such a way as to limit any unintended humanitarian impact.

112. In March 2002, the Security Council formulated an aide-memoire (S/PRST/2002/6, annex), intended to guide deliberations for the establishment, review or termination of peacekeeping operations. The aide-memoire has already been used within the Secretariat during country-specific discussions with regard to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, for example, in the context of the Angola peace agreement and, most recently, as a means of reviewing the experience of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

113. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants is often a fundamental requirement in the effort to end conflicts and achieve sustainable peace and lasting development. Ex-combatants must be assisted to return to normal civilian life, their communities may often need support to receive them, and the entire effort must be supported by the political will of the parties to the conflict and the international community. Effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes must extend from the immediate post-conflict period to longer-term development efforts, and they therefore require the coordinated efforts of various elements of the United Nations and the international community, host Governments and the parties to the conflict. Over the past decade, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration tasks were included in a number of peacekeeping mandates, including those relating to Angola, Cambodia, Liberia and Mozambique. The many lessons drawn from those experiences are informing ongoing efforts, such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone, where MONUC and UNAMSIL have played a lead role during the reporting period in coordination with United Nations and other partners, including the World Bank. In seeking comprehensive approaches and linking peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance to longer-term recovery strategies, the experience of UNDP in supporting the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and in small arms reduction has proved most valuable. Such programmes reduce insecurity and facilitate the regeneration of economic activity in countries such as Chad and the Central African Republic and regions such as the Great Lakes. Similarly, the work of UNICEF in the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers has continued in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and elsewhere. Over the coming years, more attention will need to be paid to integrating these programmes into a broad strategy for sustainable solutions to ensure human security.

Chapter III

Cooperating for development

Eradicating extreme poverty

114. Eradicating poverty remains a central priority for the United Nations system. The Millennium Development Goals clearly articulate the various dimensions of poverty that must be addressed. Efforts continue to ensure that interventions to alleviate poverty are effective and targeted, and to secure international cooperation in resource mobilization, policy planning and implementation. During the past year, several global conferences have been held to shore up support for the Millennium Development Goals by advancing towards a more

participatory trading system at Doha, by building consensus on financing for development at Monterrey and by reaffirming commitments to sustainable development at Johannesburg.

115. United Nations development initiatives are focused on the eradication of poverty at the local level, and promote a decentralized, participatory approach to the provision of basic infrastructure and the management of natural resources. The programmes focus on partnerships with Governments, local authorities and civil society to ensure that local investments match local needs and that they are managed efficiently.

116. The multidimensional nature of poverty is increasingly being addressed through policies targeted at women, children and the growing number of urban poor. Women make up the majority of the world's poor, and are frequently denied access to the natural resources, credit, technology and training that they need to become financially independent. The United Nations Development Programme has been working in Brazil, where mothers were targeted for small incentive payments; these were used to reward them for enrolling and keeping their children in school. This initiative now brings \$1 billion annually to 5 million of Brazil's poorest families, and supports nearly 10 million children in school. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is working to eradicate poverty among women by assisting their efforts to gain control over money and assets and providing opportunities for them to participate in the market economy. Programmes include the Technical Resources Network for small and microenterprises in the Arab States, a forum for South Asian women entrepreneurs, a network of Peruvian and Ecuadorian women artisans, and networks of women entrepreneurs using information and communication technologies to access new markets.

117. United Nations anti-poverty interventions on behalf of children focus on health and basic education. The UNICEF immunization plus programme delivers a set of essential and cost-effective maternal and child health interventions. The programme offers safe immunization, with all available cost-effective vaccines and vitamin A capsule supplements where necessary. Globally, the distribution of vitamin A capsules, added to immunizations, may have saved up to 1 million children. With regard to education, UNICEF has prioritized the rights of girls and AIDS orphans. In line with the Dakar Framework for Action, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), together with various partners, supports the adoption of Education for All plans aimed at reinforcing formal and non-formal education for poor children. The World Food Programme is helping poor children, especially girls, to attend primary school through school feeding programmes and by providing take-home rations. In 2001, 15 million children in 57 countries benefited from this assistance.

118. At the international level, increasing attention is being given to the problem of chronic food shortages, and to the role of agricultural and rural development in poverty reduction. Agricultural trade-related issues were given prominence in negotiations at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha in November 2001. The International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, gave serious consideration to the need for greater investment in rural areas for agriculture. The momentum generated at Monterrey was carried through to the World Food Summit held in Rome in June 2002. Governments reaffirmed commitments to goals established at the previous World Food Summit five years earlier, and acknowledged the need for increased investment for hunger reduction. Direct food assistance is an essential complement to longer-term agricultural development efforts to address hunger.

119. Almost 3 billion people, half the world's population, now live in cities. By 2030, the proportion is expected to reach 60 per cent. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) focuses on alleviating the most visible manifestations of urban poverty, namely, inadequate housing and homelessness, weak infrastructure and poor basic services, and on the linkages between urban poverty, on the one hand, and the environment, disaster management, security and urban governance, on the other. In December 2001, the General Assembly transformed the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements into a fully fledged United Nations Human Settlements Programme, demonstrating a commitment to implementing the Millennium Development Goals, including the urgent need to improve the lives of more than 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The Programme's activities have included producing and disseminating a toolkit to support participatory urban decision-making and producing Participation to Partnership, an evaluation of lessons learned from urban governance projects in 200 cities. The Safer Cities Programme undertook eight city projects in seven African countries, and initiated programmes in the Pacific islands and in Latin America. During 2001, the Programme focused on appraising urban insecurity, promoting policies to prevent juvenile crime and gender violence, and supporting the development of new forms of urban policing.

Cooperating to attain the Millennium Development Goals

120. At the request of the General Assembly, I have submitted to it at its fifty-seventh session the first annual report on progress achieved by the United Nations system and Member States towards implementing the Millennium Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals. That report, which gives an overview of all the commitments set out in the Declaration, includes a statistical annex that tracks progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, starting from a common baseline.

121. A number of measures have been taken in 2001 and 2002 which will help to develop an open, rule-based, predictable, and nondiscriminatory trading system and improve market access for exports from developing countries, central to the Millennium Development Goals. The Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) successfully increased the membership of WTO to 144, and agreed on an agenda for further trade negotiations. In addition to continuing negotiations on agriculture, services, non-agricultural products and the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS), the Doha work programme also includes a broad range of issues for future negotiation (known as “Singapore issues” and including investment and competition policy). The Doha agreements also highlight questions relating to the special and differential treatment of developing economies and enhanced market access under existing agreements. The agreements put considerable emphasis on capacity-building and technical assistance, which the United Nations system is helping to implement. The next ministerial meeting of WTO will be held in Mexico in 2003. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continues to assist developing countries to participate in the international trading system. Programmes are aimed at expanding the trading opportunities of developing countries, by building up their capacity in this area through policy advisory services, access to information and training. The emphasis is on the enlargement and improvement of export market opportunities, including the commodities sector, and on improving the efficiency and cutting down the costs of export and import transactions.

122. More than 50 heads of State and Government and over 200 ministers for foreign affairs, trade, development and finance gathered at Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002 for the International Conference on Financing for Development. It was the first United Nations–sponsored summit-level meeting to address key financial issues pertaining to global development and was held with the active collaboration of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and WTO.

123. At the Conference, heads of State and Government adopted the Monterrey Consensus, which outlines actions to be implemented in areas that are at the core of the Millennium Development Goals, namely, mobilizing domestic financial resources for development; mobilizing international resources for development; enhancing foreign direct investment and other private flows; expanding international trade as an engine for development; increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development; making external debt sustainable; and addressing systemic issues.

124. Building on the outcomes of the Conference, the United Nations will continue to collaborate with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and other partners to implement the Monterrey Consensus. Stronger cooperation on financing for development among ministries of finance, trade, development and planning and foreign affairs and civil society should be promoted. Such global partnerships are critical for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Sustainable development

125. The year 2002 marks the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit), held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The decision of the General Assembly to organize the 10-year review at the summit level and convene the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 gained strong support from Member States and civil society across the world.

126. Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development were undertaken at the national and regional levels. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with UNDP, launched an international survey for the 10-year anniversary of the Rio Conference. The Department, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP provided assistance to countries in support of preparations at the national level. Technical cooperation was also provided to developing countries in such areas as new and renewable sources of energy, solar energy, small-scale hydropower, sustainable energy plans, water supply and water quality. A series of recommendations to reflect gender perspectives in research, policies and capacity-building in the areas of environmental management and natural disaster mitigation emanated from an expert group meeting organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction at Ankara in November 2001.

127. At the regional level, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and African regional and subregional organizations, convened deliberative processes resulting in the adoption of an African Ministerial Declaration on the priorities of the region regarding sustainable development. The main challenge ahead is to reinforce the institutional capacity for the implementation of the regional programme.

Africa

128. African leaders have created the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in which they commit themselves to improving governance and managing their economies better. Specifically, clear standards are being set for accountability, transparency and participatory governance; appropriate standards and targets are being stipulated for fiscal and monetary policies, and transparent legal frameworks for financial markets are being established. The African Peer Review Mechanism, to monitor progress in compliance with such standards, has been established and will be an important instrument for achieving those objectives. These steps deserve the strong support of the international community. For its part, the United Nations will continue to support African development priorities within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and through the African Union.

129. The Economic Commission for Africa has worked closely with African Governments to develop codes and standards for the economic and corporate governance initiative of the NEPAD Peer Review Mechanism. To monitor and report on the status of integration on the continent, a new flagship publication of ECA was launched during the African Development Forum III, in March 2002. The Annual Report on Integration in Africa will provide qualitative and quantitative information on regional integration for use by policy makers, the regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations. FAO is assisting NEPAD in a joint programme to ensure agricultural stability and economic development. Such programmes in support of Africa within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development must be pursued.

130. An independent review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was completed in May 2002. The independent evaluation, undertaken by a panel of eminent personalities, concluded that the New Agenda had fallen short of its objectives, and highlighted lessons that could be useful for other initiatives on African development. It critically reviewed the past reliance on liberalization, privatization and market-based reforms and recommended that development strategies be developed at the national level, and with a balance between macroeconomic stability and long-term structural transformation. At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly will consider the final review of the implementation of the New Agenda, including the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

131. The Economic and Social Council has demonstrated its willingness to play an important role in peace-building in Africa. In July 2002, by its resolution 2002/1, the Council decided to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, a limited but flexible and representative ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflicts. I am pleased to note that consultations for establishing the first ad hoc advisory group are well under way.

Addressing the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

132. The General Assembly by resolution 56/227 established the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The Office is responsible for United Nations system-wide coordination, follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community.

133. The challenge now for the 49 least developed countries, and donor countries, is to build capacity to ensure that the Brussels Programme of Action is implemented as soon as possible. The United Nations system will mobilize and coordinate actions to facilitate the implementation of the Programme at the national, regional, subregional and global levels.

134. The geographical handicaps and economic and ecological vulnerabilities of the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, 26 of which are also least developed countries, continue to constrain their overall development. The General Assembly requested me last December to convene in 2003 an International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and

International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation. The preparatory process for that Meeting was launched in June 2002, coordinated by the Office of the High Representative, in cooperation with the World Bank, UNCTAD and the regional commissions.

135. The Least Developed Countries Report 2002, published by UNCTAD, assesses the progress of the least developed countries towards the Millennium Development Goals. Least developed countries continue to be the primary beneficiaries of various UNCTAD capacity-building programmes in the areas of customs reform, transit transport, business and trade facilitation and international trade. To assist countries which have not fully benefited from the WTO Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in close collaboration with WTO, held courses and seminars in trade policy, from May 2001 to June 2002. The seminars also discussed trade and investment opportunities in the Greater Mekong subregion. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization continues its assistance to the least developed countries through programmes on improving industrial governance and institutional infrastructure, strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, upgrading technological capacities, enhancing skills and access to modern technology, building trade and export capabilities and adopting energy efficiency and cleaner production measures.

Battling HIV/AIDS

136. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) serves as a hub for policy advice and strategic information based on scientific evidence, and for tracking the global response to the epidemic. At the country level, UNAIDS provides support to 130 United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS, encouraging United Nations organizations to address HIV/AIDS issues, in most cases embracing key national partners, and ensuring United Nations support to national programmes. Of the 50 United Nations country teams that had completed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework by the end of 2001, 70 per cent had included HIV/AIDS as a key element or a cross-cutting theme. During the past year, all United Nations agencies, in particular UNAIDS co-sponsors, have significantly increased their resources to support the response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in Africa. The World Bank's Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Programme for Africa now totals \$1 billion. In April 2002, the World Health Organization endorsed the inclusion of 12 antiretroviral drugs for the treatment of HIV infection in its Model List of Essential Medicines, facilitating their registration in countries and their procurement by major distributors. WHO also issued guidelines for increasing the use of anti-retroviral therapy in poorer areas. In November 2001, at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, WTO members unanimously declared that TRIPS could and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO members' right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all. The Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, adopted by the International Labour Organization in 2001, provided practical guidance to Governments, employers and workers for developing workplace programmes on HIV/AIDS.

137. Other organizations within the United Nations system are increasing their efforts in response to the disease. In 2001, FAO, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) harmonized policies on the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and rural poverty, with the aim of developing a common framework for the agricultural sector. Increasingly, IFAD-financed poverty alleviation and rural investment programmes and projects in Africa incorporate activities aimed at HIV prevention and at tempering the effect of the epidemic on rural households, particularly orphans, through viable social safety net programmes.

138. The growing global commitment to fight HIV/AIDS is reflected in the increasing levels of funding within national budgets and for bilateral and multilateral development assistance. Only nine months after I called for such a fund at the OAU Summit at Abuja, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established in January 2002. The establishment of the Fund was made possible through concerted action by a wide range of stakeholders, including bilateral donors, the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector. Since early in 2001, a total of almost \$2.1 billion has been pledged to the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Fund will provide significant additional resources for national HIV/AIDS efforts, an important step towards addressing the global funding gap. At its meeting in April 2002, the Fund's Board approved a total of \$616 million in grants, for all three diseases, for two years in more than 30 countries.

139. Despite successes in halting or reversing the spread of the epidemic in a growing number of countries, among them Cambodia, Thailand, Uganda and Zambia, the global HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to spread. Parts of Asia, which had previously not seen high levels of HIV, are now faced with a growing epidemic, and parts of Eastern Europe and Central Asia are now experiencing some of the most explosive growth rates in the world. In

high-income countries, where significant successes had been recorded in reducing AIDS mortality, increases in the practice of unsafe sex and in HIV infection are indicating more recent complacency.

Social Development

140. The United Nations continues to address a wide range of social concerns, including ageing populations and people with disabilities; drug abuse and transnational crime; and urban governance. Technical cooperation in the area of social development included studies on the social dimensions of macroeconomic adjustment, support for the preparation of national human development reports, strengthening government ministries and units concerned with promoting women's role in development, studies of poverty in specific regions, and social impact assessments of various policies.

Ageing and people with disabilities

141. The Second World Assembly on Ageing, held at Madrid in April 2002, highlighted the need to link ageing to human rights and social and economic development. It also drafted a set of objectives and specific actions for Governments, international organizations and civil society. As a regional follow-up to the Assembly, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) initiated negotiations in April 2002 on the ECE regional implementation strategy, which will be adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Ageing to be held in Berlin in September 2002. The United Nations system supported a number of regional activities over the course of the year to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

Combating illicit drug use and preventing crime

142. In 2001 the United Nations International Drug Control Programme pursued a balanced approach encompassing support for the efforts of Member States to reduce demand and eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and coca plant. Much headway was made in promoting the ratification and entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three Protocols thereto, which address the issues of trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and illicit trafficking in firearms. Anti-money-laundering activities included the provision of support in legal, financial, law enforcement and training efforts by the Programme.

143. Steps to improve inter-agency coordination were taken at the first Inter-Agency AntiCorruption Coordination Meeting, held at Vienna in February 2002. Representatives of United Nations agencies and other international organizations exchanged views on anti-corruption activities and discussed ways and means of enhancing the coordination of anti-corruption policies. Member States have also embarked upon the drafting of a major instrument, a convention against corruption, setting the end of 2003 as a target date for its completion.

Promoting development through the use of information and communication technologies

144. In November 2001 I inaugurated a United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, an innovative mechanism that brought together relevant stakeholders in a common effort to harness the potential of information technology. Working in close collaboration with other initiatives, including the Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) set up by the Group of Eight, our Task Force is now ready to assist Member States, especially the least developed countries, in such vital areas as integrating information and communication technologies into national development strategies.

145. Another significant step in this direction was taken by the General Assembly at its meeting devoted to information and communication technologies for development, held in June 2002 at the initiative of the President of the General Assembly. The General Assembly reaffirmed the multi-stakeholder approach of Governments, the private sector, the global civil society and the United Nations in promoting the use of information and communication technologies.

Data collection and analysis to support development

146. Assessing progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals requires a solid information base. In April 2002, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with all organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, the regional commissions and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, prepared the first global progress report on the Millennium Development Goals. The indicator data series underlying the analysis can be accessed on the Statistics Division's new millennium indicator web site, <http://millenniumindicators.un.org>. Over the next few years the United Nations will continue to work with partner agencies to improve the common databases. Moreover, considerable progress was made in enhancing the national statistical capacities of Member States in important fields such as statistical management

and organization, statistical classifications, census and survey mechanisms, national accounting, trade, environment and energy statistics. This will enable them to produce their own reliable and timely data series, which will facilitate continued monitoring of progress.

Chapter IV

The international legal order and human rights

Human rights development

147. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to provide leadership on promoting and protecting human rights for all, at the global, regional and national levels. Programmes to complement national efforts include advising on the incorporation of international human rights norms into constitutions and legislation, assisting with national human rights plans of action and supporting the development of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Office also worked within the United Nations to integrate human rights into all its activities, including activities relating to the rule of law, sustainable development, conflict resolution, and peacekeeping and peace-building.

148. The Commission on Human Rights held its fifty-eighth session at Geneva in March and April 2002. The Commission met under the shadow of the attacks of 11 September 2001 and their direct or indirect consequences for many countries, and the deteriorating situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. While States must take measures to protect their citizens against terror, they must also recognize that security cannot be achieved at the expense of human rights. On the contrary, stronger protection of and respect for human rights, democracy and social justice are integral to the promotion of security.

149. The fifty-eighth session of the Commission enjoyed wide participation; it was attended not only by its 53 member States, but also by almost all of the rest of the Members of the United Nations as observers. Special rapporteurs and independent experts prepared reports on several countries and on themes relating to civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. They included 28 separate reports that raise critical human rights concerns about specific country situations, providing information that can be used for developing integrated approaches to the maintenance of peace and security, the rule of law and sustainable development. The Commission adopted 92 resolutions and 18 decisions, despite the loss of one third of its meeting time because of budgetary cuts.

150. The core mission of the Commission on Human Rights is to extend the culture of human rights based on universal values and to act to protect the victims of violations of human rights all over the world. If the Commission is to retain its vital protection and promotion role, it must provide leadership, and be willing to evaluate and strengthen national protection systems. It is unfortunate that the fifty-eighth session was characterized by a marked increase in block voting by groups. Progress was made on issues such as racism, the right to health, the right to development, and enforced or involuntary disappearances, and on developing a protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

151. Despite the difficulties it encountered, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in 2001 adopted a comprehensive anti-discrimination agenda. Implementing that agenda is now more relevant than ever. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, established by the Economic and Social Council, was inaugurated in New York in May 2002. The Forum offers an opportunity to address the disadvantages faced by indigenous peoples. It has the potential to generate high-level technical expertise on indigenous issues, and will build critical partnerships between indigenous communities and the United Nations system.

152. Human rights protection is strengthened by means of the reporting and communications system established under the core United Nations human rights treaties. The Office of the High Commissioner assists the work of the human rights treaty bodies, which provide systematic and regular assessments of the implementation by States of their human rights commitments. From June 2001 to June 2002 the six treaty bodies examined more than 100 State reports. From more than 40 per cent of the reports the Committees were able to acknowledge legislative or policy changes by the reporting State that enhance the protection of human rights. Nevertheless, considerable efforts are required to ensure effective follow-up, at the domestic level, to the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the treaty bodies.

153. The treaty body system provides opportunities for individual victims of human rights violations to submit complaints for examination. From June 2000 to June 2002, the Office dealt with more than 103,000 such complaints. Moreover, since their establishment, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture

and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination have registered 1,324 communications and, not counting decisions to discontinue cases, have adopted 809 final decisions. The jurisprudence of the treaty bodies offers important policy direction to States, often leading to legislative and policy reforms beyond the individual case. From June 2001 to June 2002, the special rapporteurs and independent experts issued more than 945 urgent appeals to 56 States concerning allegations of violations of human rights such as torture, summary and extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, and violations of the right to freedom of expression. The Office of the High Commissioner has taken significant steps to ensure that such claims are addressed in an effective and efficient manner.

154. Following a request by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner is currently developing guidelines on a human rights approach to poverty reduction strategies. The guidelines will translate international human rights norms, standards and principles into operational guide lines for practitioners involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategies.

155. At the regional level, the Office has worked in partnership with Governments, regional organizations and civil society to identify strategies to address human rights concerns. To this end, a meeting of European and Central Asian countries was held in October 2001 at Dubrovnik, Croatia, in collaboration with the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Useful consultations were also held at Geneva on strategies for African countries, in November 2001, and for Central and South American countries in December 2001. A further African dialogue meeting was held at Arusha in May 2002, attended by States, non-governmental organizations and human rights experts. Those meetings created important frameworks for action in the various regions on issues relating to the rule of law, the administration of justice, racial discrimination, and economic, social and cultural rights.

156. To assist in the implementation of human rights strategies, the High Commissioner for Human Rights placed human rights representatives in the headquarters of the regional commissions at Bangkok, Beirut, Santiago and Addis Ababa, and also at Pretoria, working closely with the South African Development Community. The Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa was established at Yaounde to serve nine countries of the subregion.

The International Criminal Court

157. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court entered into force on 1 July 2002, approximately four years after its adoption. The pace of ratification has been remarkable, demonstrating a firm international resolve to hold individuals who commit war crimes and crimes against humanity responsible for their actions. Rarely have States and civil society been so united in advocating for a common cause. The Rome Statute has already contributed to the advancement of criminal law, consistent with human rights standards and due process, at national and international levels. The entry into force of the Statute has spurred a worldwide demand for accountability, particularly from those in positions of political or military leadership.

158. The first meeting of the Assembly of States Parties will be held in September 2002. The principal officials and staff of the Court, including the judges, the Prosecutor and the Registrar, will have been elected or appointed by August 2003, and will assume their functions at the seat of the Court at The Hague. The vision of a permanent international criminal court, a goal of the United Nations for more than 50 years, will finally become a reality.

159. Much progress has been made on the operational aspects of the Court. The Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court held its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions at United Nations Headquarters, in September/ October 2001, April 2002 and July 2002, respectively.

160. At its eighth session, the Preparatory Commission adopted draft texts of the Relationship Agreement between the Court and the United Nations, the Financial Regulations, the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of States Parties, as well as draft resolutions on the establishment of the Committee on Budget and Finance and on criteria for voluntary contributions to the Court. The Commission also continued its consideration of the crime of aggression and began discussions on a budget for the Court.

161. At its ninth session, the Preparatory Commission made progress on many of the issues raised at the previous session, adopting a further report containing draft texts of the Financial Rules and the basic principles governing a headquarters agreement between the Court and the host country. Resolutions were drafted concerning the provisional arrangements for the secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties and on crediting contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of the Court. The Commission

began to consider procedures for electing the judges, the Prosecutor and the Registrar. At its tenth and final session, the Preparatory Commission completed all the operational arrangements for the Court.

162. Despite the recent debate in the Security Council about the jurisdiction of the Court, I remain optimistic that even those Governments that have been sceptical about the Court have not fully closed the door to accepting the Rome Statute. Those who fear the erosion of national sovereignty should recognize that, in accordance with the principle of complementarity enshrined in the Rome Statute, national criminal justice systems will always have the first opportunity to exercise jurisdiction over serious violations of international humanitarian law. The greater the number of States that establish jurisdiction over such crimes, the stronger the affirmation of the principle that States have the primary right and duty to hold those who commit them accountable. What is most critical is that the community of States understands that the risks posed by the Court and its Statute are minor compared to inaction in the face of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

163. I consider the universality of the Rome Statute critical to the Court's ability to promote the rule of law, end impunity and prevent genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. By 31 December 2000, the last day the Rome Statute was open for signature, there were 139 signatories. To date, 76 States have ratified and thus become parties to the Statute. It is essential that all States that have not yet done so embrace the cause of international criminal justice by signing, ratifying and implementing the Statute as soon as possible.

International Tribunals

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

164. The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has made significant strides during the past year towards completing all trial activities by 2008, and disposing of all appeals by 2010. The addition of nine ad litem judges has been integral to the Tribunal's completion strategy, making it possible for six trials to be conducted simultaneously. Another important element of the strategy is the Tribunal's decision to focus on the prosecution and trial of the highest ranking political, military and paramilitary leaders, while transferring the cases of mid-level accused to national courts for trial, particularly the courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In June 2002, the Tribunal submitted a report to the Security Council setting out this proposed broad programme of action. In July 2002, the Council endorsed that programme, and, over the coming months, the Tribunal will begin to implement the programme.

165. The Tribunal has also implemented a range of reforms during the past year to enhance its efficiency and accelerate the preparation and completion of trials. These include amending the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which has enabled judges to improve the management and control of proceedings by increasing their powers at the trial and pre-trial stages. The Appeals Chamber has improved its working practices and procedures so as to better manage its rapidly increasing workload. Two additional judges from the International Tribunal for Rwanda have joined the Appeals Chamber, which should increase its judicial capacity and ensure greater uniformity in the case law of the two Tribunals. Steps have also been taken to establish a bar association for defence counsel appearing before the Tribunal to ensure better communication between the Tribunal and defence lawyers, to enhance their familiarity with the Tribunal's rules, procedures and case law, and to bring about an overall improvement in standards of professional conduct.

166. During the past year, there has been a significant increase in the number of accused who have either surrendered to the Tribunal or have been arrested and transferred to The Hague. The Tribunal's Detention Unit has 42 of the accused in custody at present, and a further nine are on provisional release. Of the accused, 25 currently have their cases at the pre-trial stage, 11 are on trial, 12 are on appeal and one is awaiting verdict. During the past year, the Tribunal has completed three trials, involving eight accused, and has disposed of two appeals, by five accused, from the verdicts of its Trial Chambers. The Tribunal has transferred three detainees to Spain and two to Austria to serve out their sentences.

167. The trial of Slobodan Milošević, former President of Serbia and of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, opened in February 2002, the accused conducting his own defence. The Prosecutor is due to finish presenting the Kosovo portion of her case by the summer recess in 2002. After the recess, she will begin presentation of the other portions of her case, dealing with charges arising out of events in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. She is due to complete her case by April 2003. The failure to arrest Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić both indicted by the Tribunal, continues to undermine respect for the rule of law. Every effort must be made to ensure that these indicted war criminals are brought to justice without further delay.

168. The Prosecutor has spent considerable time encouraging Governments to make arrests and respond to requests for assistance from her Office. While cooperation with Croatia and the Federation of Bosnia and

Herzegovina has been satisfactory, a lack of cooperation from the Republika Srpska remains a source of major concern, as it poses a serious obstacle to the implementation of the Prosecutor's mandate. Nevertheless, the Prosecutor expects to complete all investigations by the end of 2004, by which time she anticipates that she will have submitted indictments against some 100 additional accused.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

169. In December 2001, the International Tribunal for Rwanda transferred six of the persons whom it has tried and convicted to Mali to serve their prison sentences. Among them was Jean Kambanda, Prime Minister and Head of the Interim Government of Rwanda from April to July 1994. Mr. Kambanda is the first head of Government to be convicted of genocide by an international tribunal. The Tribunal sentenced him to life imprisonment.

170. Over the course of the past year, States have arrested and transferred a total of seven accused to Arusha. In an effort to secure the arrest and transfer of other accused individuals, the Tribunal's Registrar met with the Presidents of the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in February 2002 to encourage them to apprehend and hand over wanted persons believed to have taken refuge in those two States. Both heads of State pledged their cooperation. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has invited the Tribunal to open a field office there to facilitate efforts by the Prosecutor to track down suspects and accused.

171. The joint trial of Théoneste Bagosora, Gratien Kabiligi, Aloys Ntabakuze and Anatole Nsengiyumva, high-ranking officers charged with playing major roles in planning the Rwandan genocide, commenced on 2 April 2002. At present, 22 individuals are on trial before the Tribunal in eight trials.

172. The Tribunal has taken a number of institutional and legal measures to improve its efficiency, so that it can complete all trials at first instance by 2008. The judges have amended the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence to enable the Tribunal to transfer some cases to national courts for trial, and so allow it to concentrate on trying a limited number of important cases, involving the highest-ranking political, military and paramilitary leaders. In July 2001 and February 2002, the President of the Tribunal wrote to the Security Council, requesting the creation of a pool of ad litem judges in the Tribunal, broadly similar to that already in place at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia—a measure that would help the Tribunal to deal more expeditiously with both its current and its anticipated future caseload. The Security Council took action on that request in August 2002 (resolution 1431(2002)).

Special Court for Sierra Leone

173. An important development in strengthening the rule of law was the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which began operations on 1 July 2002. The Special Court is a "mixed tribunal", established through an agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations, and combining international and national mechanisms, staff, investigators, judges, prosecutors and laws. The Special Court will hold accountable those individuals with the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Sierra Leone, and crimes under relevant national law. By the end of 2001, States had made sufficient resources available to fund its establishment and operation. A planning mission to Freetown in January 2002 discussed concrete measures for setting up the Special Court with the Government of Sierra Leone, and, on 16 January 2002, the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone signed the agreement on the establishment of the Special Court.

174. In May 2002, I appointed an Acting Registrar and a Prosecutor of the Special Court, and in July 2002, the Government of Sierra Leone and I appointed the judges who will serve in the Trial and Appeals Chambers. Also in May 2002, the Management Committee for the Special Court considered, and provisionally adopted, financial and staff regulations for the Court.

175. The Special Court will complement the role of Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and, together, they will promote accountability, deterrence and national reconciliation. The Special Court will also help Sierra Leone to rebuild its national legal institutions and re-establish a firm foundation for the rule of law.

Enhancing the rule of law

176. The effort to enhance the rule of law in international affairs has continued to be a major concern of the United Nations. I have referred in my previous reports to the campaign by the United Nations to promote participation by States in international treaties. During the past year, two more successful treaty events were

held, focusing on multilateral treaties relating to the advancement of the rights of women and children and on treaties for the prevention and suppression of terrorism. A total of 135 treaty actions (involving 65 signatures and 70 ratifications and accessions) were taken by 61 States in respect of 23 treaties relating to the advancement of the rights of women and children. With respect to the four conventions on preventing terrorism, even more States took a yet greater number of treaty actions, including those that resulted in the entering into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism on 10 April 2002. Another treaty event was held during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to encourage participation in 25 conventions that reflect humanity's efforts to achieve economic advancement while ensuring that the environment will be preserved for future generations.

177. Despite this progress, strengthening the rule of law globally has been hampered by a shortage of technical expertise at the national level. Many countries are prevented from participating in the international treaty framework because they do not possess the relevant expertise to execute treaty actions, or to enact national laws to ensure compliance with treaty commitments.

178. The United Nations has taken a number of steps to address this problem. The Office of Legal Affairs has published and made available online a Treaty Handbook to provide Governments with practical guidance on the technical process of registering, participating in, and signing international treaties. Two training seminars for Permanent Missions have been held at Headquarters on this subject, in October 2001 and May 2002.

179. A number of the Organization's offices, departments, funds, programmes and agencies offer assistance to Governments in drafting laws necessary for the implementation of current or prospective treaty commitments and provide training for individuals whose work will involve the application of those laws. The International Trade Law Branch of the Office of Legal Affairs, for example, provides consultants, on request, to States that wish to implement particular uniform commercial laws or conventions, to help them review the draft legislation that their national authorities have prepared or to assist them in the actual preparation of their drafts. The United Nations Development Programme organizes technical assistance for States drafting national laws regulating judicial administration, legal procedures and access to justice. The Office of Legal Affairs and others throughout the system are using the United Nations web site to improve awareness of such programmes and enhance their accessibility. They are also developing a system to centrally coordinate these programmes, so as to eliminate gaps in coverage and avoid duplication.

Legal affairs

180. The past year, the first of its new quinquennium, was another productive one for the International Law Commission. The Commission included new topics in its agenda, and advanced work on a number of existing topics, adopting further guidelines on treaty reservations, dealing with late reservations and with interpretative declarations. The Commission also considered outstanding legal and policy issues relating to unilateral acts of States, diplomatic protection and international liability for transboundary damage.

181. In June 2002, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted a Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation. The purpose of the Model Law is to foster economy and efficiency in international trade by encouraging the use of conciliation, and to provide greater predictability in the use of that method of resolving disputes. The Commission also continued its work on the subjects of insolvency, security interests, electronic contracting, transport law and privately financed infrastructure projects.

182. In November 2001, the Office of Legal Affairs organized a treaty event focusing on multilateral treaties for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. A total of 79 States completed approximately 180 treaty actions in respect of the various terrorism conventions of which I am the depositary. The Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 continued work on the elaboration of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and a draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

183. The Office of Legal Affairs continued to provide legal advice to UNMIK on the exercise of its legislative and executive authority under the constitutional framework, and assisted UNTAET in addressing a broad range of legal issues that arose in the course of East Timor's transition to independence. It provided advice and support to UNAMA regarding its relationship with the bodies established under the Bonn Agreement and helped the Mission in setting up the various commissions stipulated in the Agreement. The Office also provided legal advice and support to the Organization's other peacekeeping missions. It participated in the negotiation of several status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements, including the finalization of the agreement between the United Nations and East Timor concerning UNMISSET. In addition, the Office assisted the International Tribunals

for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in developing strategies for the completion of their respective mandates by the end of the current decade.

184. The Office of Legal Affairs continued to defend the Organization in complex arbitration proceedings and in other disputes with third parties, while advising the Organization on a wide range of issues. The Office succeeded in ensuring the dismissal of the lawsuits that had been pending in the Malaysian civil courts against Dato' Param Kumaraswamy, in accordance with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 29 April 1999, confirming the immunity from legal process of a special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights.

Chapter V

Enhancing management

Administration and management

185. Reform efforts continue to transform the management culture of the Organization by streamlining work processes, strengthening management and improving staffing systems. Particular progress has been made in ensuring sound financial management, mainstreaming performance management, consolidating the reform of human resources management and building a common services platform. The "Electronic United Nations", an initiative to convert manual, paper-based processes to electronic formats, is being expanded and institutionalized and, through advances in information technology, practically all important information is digitally available to staff and Member States.

Human resources and performance management reform

186. Implementation of the "ten building block" strategy for human resources management continues, and has included the introduction of a new staff selection system, which increases the delegated authority to heads of department and office. Now, once central review bodies are satisfied that candidates have been properly evaluated and appropriate procedures have been followed, heads of department and office can select their own staff. The new system also integrates recruitment, placement, promotion and mobility through the use of an electronic tool, Galaxy, a global, web-based recruitment system which automates, streamlines and re-engineers the recruitment process. Work continues to expand career support, execute the managed reassignment programme for young Professionals and further refine both human resource planning and the human resource handbook. With regard to our internal system of staff justice, the office of the Ombudsman, established at the end of 2001, will strengthen the informal mediation process and replace the panel that considers discrimination and other grievances. Other performance management initiatives include developing a key item reporting system to bring online information to managers, and implementing the performance appraisal system throughout the Secretariat.

187. The next step in the managerial arena will be to implement a global management network for the Organization, based on a broad delegation of authority and supported by wellfunctioning monitoring systems, management reviews and advisory mechanisms. More funds will be needed to consolidate the "Electronic United Nations", and to safeguard the information technology platform.

Capitalizing on technology

188. An information and communication strategy has been adopted that will improve access to information, field support, technical standards, capacity-building and e-administration. The Integrated Management Information System is now in place, serving as the central electronic platform for the Organization at all Headquarters locations, the regional commissions and five peacekeeping missions. In addition, the Official Document System is now operational as a universal tool for document retrieval.

Capital master plan

189. The capital master plan will refurbish the entire United Nations complex in New York in a comprehensive and cost-efficient manner. The General Assembly has requested that a preliminary comprehensive design plan and cost analysis be prepared, which will be reviewed at the fifty-seventh session. The design plan provides a set of recommendations covering core refurbishment; essential improvements; security enhancements; additional back-up plans for both building systems and equipment; and sustainable "green" renovation—all to equip the United Nations complex for the twenty-first century.

190. Given the magnitude of the financing involved, the General Assembly may wish to authorize the preparation of complete design and construction documentation. It will also be important to develop, in consultation with Member States, potential funding arrangements as rapidly as possible for submission to the

General Assembly for approval, so that the required funding will be in place to begin the refurbishment in October 2004.

Financial management

191. Initiatives to ensure managerial accountability have included the introduction of results-based budgeting; streamlining rules governing programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; and presenting regular updates to Member States on the finances of the Organization. These initiatives have provided a means to improve the content and format of financial reporting and kept Member States fully aware of trends and the difficulties the Organization faces in financial matters, in particular its cash-flow situation.

192. An encouraging development during the past year has been the improvement in the financial situation of the United Nations. All three components of the Organization's financial base—cash on hand, the level of paid assessments and debt to Member States—have been better than at any time over the last six years. Problems remain, however, concerning cyclical cash-flow variations, which result in periodic deficits in regular budget cash, especially towards the end of the year. Borrowing from peacekeeping missions is now permitted only from active missions; as the number of active missions is declining the availability of such resources will soon be depleted, effectively eliminating the financial safety net of the United Nations.

Accountability and oversight

193. The Office of Internal Oversight Services is working in partnership with managers at all levels to instil accountability and best management practices throughout the Organization.

Monitoring, evaluation and consulting

194. The Office has introduced new working methods while it continues to promote ethical awareness in the United Nations so as to combat fraud and the abuse of power. The merger of several oversight functions in the newly established Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division has energized cross-disciplinary teamwork in these areas. The newly established presence of the Office at Geneva will deliver more responsive and coordinated audits and investigation services, and will help programmes strengthen their capacity for self-evaluation, as required.

195. Three major inspections undertaken during the past year focused on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitoring systems. An inspection of the Department for Disarmament Affairs resulted in the overall positive assessment of its programme management and administration. An inspection of the programme management and administrative practices at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean found that, in general, the Commission is a well-run organization with a good institutional culture and staff morale, but that there was a need to improve human resources management and to review the responsibilities and accountability of managers. An inspection of the administrative and management practices at the United Nations Office at Nairobi concluded that, although its role and mandate had been clearly defined, there was a need to clarify its functional responsibilities and its reporting lines with UNEP, UN-Habitat and their governing bodies. The United Nations Office at Nairobi was also experiencing major difficulties in attracting highly qualified Professional staff and in filling vacancies in senior management positions.

196. An in-depth evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs concluded that it has generally discharged its functions effectively, but that a strong central capacity is needed to ensure uniform and consistent application of the law within the Organization. An evaluation of the Division of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services concluded that the Division has provided technical secretariat services efficiently and effectively. There was however a need to strengthen the provision of advice and support to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and to the bureaux of the main committees. The Office of Internal Oversight Services intends to provide increased support to Departments to strengthen their self-evaluation capacity, in a manner complementary to the implementation of the results-based budgeting.

Audit management

197. Internal audit activities continue to focus on high-risk areas such as peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, as well as the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Field missions pose a high risk to the Organization, owing to factors such as the large number of transactions made in cash, which increase the potential for the loss or theft of United Nations resources, and so require enhanced audit coverage. The Office of Internal Oversight Services has therefore assigned resident auditors to the largest peacekeeping missions to provide close and continuous audit coverage. In cooperation with a major consulting

firm, the Office is also undertaking an in-depth risk assessment of UNMIK, as part of an effort to improve risk-based planning systems for audit.

198. The high level of financial risk, the wide range of activities carried out and the unprecedented level of funds involved have also required the Internal Audit Division to expand audit coverage of the Office of the Iraq Programme, the United Nations Compensation Commission, and the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia. Audits of the activities of the Office of the Iraq Programme and the United Nations Compensation Commission have resulted in operational improvements and significant cost savings. The Internal Audit Division is in the process of assigning resident audit staff to the Tribunals.

Investigations

199. The Investigations Division reports on violations of United Nations regulations, rules and pertinent administrative guidelines to bring about greater accountability on the part of staff members, and to protect the Organization's resources. During the past year, the Division received over 500 new cases and issued over 40 reports to programme managers. Several cases cleared staff members of wrongdoing when evidence gathered did not substantiate the allegation. The Division was also involved in a number of cases which required referral to national law enforcement authorities.

200. Other major investigations conducted have included an assessment mission to UNMIBH to determine whether the International Police Task Force was involved in the trafficking of women and young girls into the mission area for purposes of prostitution, and a follow-up investigation into possible fee-splitting arrangements between defence counsel and indigent detainees at the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia. A third investigation focused on allegations of sexual exploitation of refugee girls and women by aid workers in UNHCR refugee camps in West Africa. The last investigation has to date not revealed a widespread pattern of such exploitation. The information gathered suggested that young female refugees resorted to prostitution or sexual relationships with aid workers as a result of extreme poverty.

Strengthening the Organization

201. Building on the work already done in my first term, earlier this year, at the start of my second mandate, I initiated another round of reforms. The Millennium Declaration adopted two years ago and the major world conferences since then have set the broad parameters for our activities. The focus of the reform is to ensure that the Organization's programme of work is aligned with the priorities and principles laid out in the Declaration. I also intend to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different units and offices in order to eliminate duplication, avoid fragmentation and improve the impact of our activities. I will also be proposing a simplification of rules of procedure and processes—to cut paperwork and time and increase efficiency and transparency.

202. My hope is that these reforms will help the Secretariat to focus its work, while also enabling us to better serve the General Assembly, the principal policy-making organ of the United Nations. Some of the proposals lie within the domain of Member States—streamlining and strengthening the work of the intergovernmental machinery is the most important example. Other reforms depend very much on our ability to reverse the underinvestment in retraining our staff and in information technology. I am confident that the package of changes will result in a much strengthened Organization, as called for in the Millennium Declaration—one that continues to be credible and relevant to Member States, civil society and the peoples of the world.

Chapter VI Partnerships

Communications

203. An effective communications strategy requires a dynamic network of partners and allies who understand what the Member States expect of the Organization. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested me to prepare a comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information to ascertain how the Department can better fulfil its responsibilities. Over the past several months, the Department has undertaken close self-examination, assisted by internationally recognized management consultants. The results of that exercise will be reflected in the report on reform I intend to submit to the General Assembly this autumn.

204. Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 the Department projected the immediate response of the United Nations and Member States, and spurred a system-wide media campaign in support of counter-

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terrorism efforts. Among the initiatives taken was the creation of a new site on terrorism on the United Nations web site in all six official languages. When tours of United Nations Headquarters were suspended, the guides in the Department were able to join the American Red Cross in the relief effort as interpreters.

205. Early in October 2001, “town meetings” were convened in 10 United States cities with the help of the Better World Campaign to explore the challenges posed by the attacks and to express solidarity with the American people. The meetings were connected by a satellite link, allowing me to speak to, and respond to questions from, participants, while my senior colleagues and distinguished national representatives took part in the discussions on site at the various locations.

206. Media partnerships continue to be vital. The launch, early in 2002, of the United Nations News Service enabled the Organization to reach thousands of journalists in all regions of the world swiftly and directly. More than 4,000 subscribers worldwide have already signed on, including major news organizations and individual journalists, and receive the News Service via e-mail, and at no cost. This Service focuses in particular on the media in smaller developing countries, which may not have access to, or may not be able to afford, first-hand reporting from the Organization’s headquarters and field offices.

207. In this spirit, the Department also provided logistical support to journalists from indigenous communities to let them attend the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2002. The Department continues to arrange briefing programmes to give senior journalists from around the world the opportunity to meet members of the United Nations community. A media encounter on Palestine was organized at Copenhagen in July 2002, which brought together eminent persons and journalists from the Middle East and elsewhere. United Nations information centres are in daily contact with journalists in their respective areas.

208. A measure of the widespread interest in the Organization is the fact that the United Nations web site is now accessed in 170 countries and territories, and the number of hits recorded annually crossed the 1 billion mark on 19 October 2001. At the same time, the web site’s direct linkage of many parliamentary documents, in the six official languages, to the new Official Document System has dramatically expanded access to this important United Nations resource. In-house capability for live webcasting continues to develop; more than 60 hours of live webcast were provided for the International Conference on Financing for Development, and that coverage was accessed by more than 21,000 users. Sales of electronic databases, and of the web edition of Development Business, continue to generate revenues for the Organization from customers with the means to pay. The Organization’s history, reflected in the Yearbook of the United Nations over 50 years, has been placed on CD-ROM.

209. Over the year, efforts have continued to ensure that the messages of the United Nations are articulated in as many languages as possible, and its reference resources similarly enriched. The United Nations web site can be accessed in the six official languages of the Organization. In addition to the broad range of outreach activities carried out by the United Nations information centres in local languages, the centres maintain web sites in 29 languages. United Nations Radio broadcasts live programmes in six languages every day; weekly programmes are produced in nine other languages. Guided tours at Headquarters are conducted in 20 languages. Innovative partnerships have been forged by the Department with external printing houses, making it possible to resume publication of the UN Chronicle in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish through co-publication arrangements, even as its newly instituted Feature Service allows publications the world over to reprint its articles in their respective languages.

210. A system-wide United Nations Communications Group has been constituted to ensure a strategic approach to common communications challenges facing the Organization. The Group meets weekly at Headquarters, in addition to an overview session each year, and replaces the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

211. The Department successfully collaborated with other offices and organizations during the observance of World AIDS Day. There was similar cooperation in formulating and implementing the communications campaigns relating to important global conferences, such as the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the special session of the General Assembly on children, the World Food Summit: five years later, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

212. The Department also undertook information campaigns relating to the independence of East Timor and the international community’s role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. It assisted in establishing Radio Okapi, a radio station operated by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in cooperation with Fondation Hironnelle, a non-governmental organization based in Switzerland. The Cartographic

Section of the Department provided valuable technical assistance to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, resulting in the successful delimitation of the international boundary between the two countries in April 2002.

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

213. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) and the United Nations Foundation are now in the fifth year of their successful partnership. Through this collaboration, \$423 million has been programmed, as at 31 December 2001, for 222 projects worldwide in four programme areas, namely, children's health; population and women; environment; and peace, security and human rights. In addition, nearly \$60 million has been generated, as at July 2002, by projects supported by the Fund and the Foundation.

214. In response to my call to action against HIV/AIDS, UNFIP, in collaboration with the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Global Business Council, organized a meeting between myself and senior representatives of 11 companies and foundations. This generated both significant interest in the issue and actual commitments, including from DaimlerChrysler to provide comprehensive care and payment for drug treatment for HIV/AIDS-infected workers in South Africa. Further, UNFIP is the "score keeper" of pledges and contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. As at 1 June 2002, nearly 300 contributions have been received from the private sector, amounting to approximately \$470,000.

215. Another innovative partnership facilitated by UNFIP is the Mother-to-Child-Transmission Plus initiative, led by the Rockefeller Foundation, which focuses on HIV/AIDS prevention linked to treatment, so as to increase the survival rate of infected mothers and their infants. UNICEF and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation, among others, are implementing this \$100 million programme. The Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University is leading the partnership coalition on technical and operational issues, and a coalition of eight foundations is providing sponsorship.

216. I am pleased to note that, as a result of General Assembly discussions on cooperation, a framework for working with corporate and foundation partners in the context of the Millennium Development Goals can now be built. Most United Nations organizations, programmes and funds have now appointed private sector focal points to identify new partners and strengthen linkages with them.

217. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships also provides advice to the United Nations system on fund-raising and outreach, and on building partnerships to attain the Millennium Development Goals. The Fund has established ties with foundations and advised organizations raising funds for United Nations causes.

Project services

218. In 2001, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) acquired new project business valued at \$603 million and delivered more than \$504.7 million in services for approximately 2,400 projects worldwide. UNDP continued to be the largest single United Nations client in the project portfolio: projects funded by or through UNDP accounted for \$361 million of the 2001 total. In addition, UNOPS supervises a loan portfolio on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which grew in 2001 by \$328 million in new projects.

219. The value of project portfolios acquired in 2001 from United Nations organizations that are not traditional users of UNOPS services grew from \$155 million in 2000 to \$242 million in 2001. The latter figure includes \$179 million in new project business from the United Nations Secretariat and \$24 million from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

220. The United Nations Office for Project Services is implementing its first major project funded by the African Development Bank through a management services agreement with UNDP: a \$9.8 million loan to the Government of Sierra Leone to assist with the rehabilitation and modernization of hospitals and health clinics. In order to minimize internal disruptions to its regular operations during an 18-month reorganization process, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) requested UNOPS in 2001 to provide operational and administrative support for recruiting consultants and organizing workshops in the context of its transition project.

221. An illustration of its diversifying project portfolio is the assistance UNOPS is providing to the Legal Counsel in the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. In partnership with ILO and other organizations of the United Nations system, UNOPS will be implementing an integrated development programme in the Evenkya Autonomous Region of Siberia with local authorities and one of the largest oil companies in the Russian Federation. The programme focuses on education, health, housing and infrastructure.

222. Further evolution of services is exemplified by a major urban water and sanitation project in northern Iraq. The Office of the Iraq Programme requested UNOPS to execute the project, valued at \$194.6 million, in close collaboration with UNICEF. UNOPS is also becoming an implementation partner, with the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, for projects in Colombia, the Czech Republic, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland and South Africa. Also in 2001, in Kosovo, a United Nations Mine Action Service programme executed with UNOPS cleared all areas known to be affected by landmines or unexploded ordnance to an acceptable residual level.

223. Following a review conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to determine how best UNOPS services could be used more broadly, I reiterated my support for the continuing work of UNOPS as a self-financing entity, encouraging all United Nations entities to avail themselves of the services of UNOPS as long as it is a cost-effective option. To strengthen the functioning of UNOPS as a self-financing entity, I recommended a number of areas for improvement, both in oversight of UNOPS and in operations, including the expansion of the membership of the Management Coordination Committee and the establishment of a working group to facilitate and support the work of that Committee. Those recommendations, endorsed by the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, have been implemented and are assisting UNOPS in addressing its financial difficulties.

Civil society and business partnerships

224. Cooperation between the United Nations system and civil society has continued to evolve over the year, not least in response to the complex social, economic, security and environmental challenges that exist today. The United Nations has been engaged in seeking common ground for constructive dialogue among representatives of Governments and civil society, as well as new frameworks for cooperation. The primacy of government commitment and action to realize the goals of the United Nations remains fundamental. Partnerships across the civil society– governmental spectrum are essential, however, in the efforts to reduce poverty, promote sustainable development, guarantee human rights and enhance global security.

225. The establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002 marked a milestone for the international community, and is a measure of the contribution made by non-governmental organizations, which contributed to every phase of the process. In the preparations for the Monterrey Conference, and at the quadripartite round-table dialogues on global macroeconomic issues at the Conference itself, the insights and experiences of civil society were brought to bear on fundamental issues of poverty, investment and economic growth. Similarly, the engagement of civil society has been essential to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The development of new forms of partnership involving Governments, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector is an important feature of the Summit, and will have a considerable effect in the outcome and implementation of the Summit agenda.

226. The United Nations has constantly adapted to the evolution of civil society and its increasing role in the international community. The diverse interests, expertise and nature of civil society organizations require a sophisticated and flexible approach to United Nations relationships with civil society. On a practical level, the establishment of focal points for non-governmental organizations within the Secretariat has facilitated interactions with and among those organizations. Strengthened Secretariat support to intergovernmental bodies, which deal directly with nongovernmental organizations, has enhanced interaction between the latter and Member States. At the same time the Secretariat has sought to facilitate communication among non-governmental organizations themselves by fostering the development of regional networks of such organizations, particularly in developing countries.

227. A substantial body of practice has been developed regarding the role and extent of participation of non-governmental organizations in special United Nations conferences. Decisions governing these arrangements continue to be largely ad hoc, notwithstanding the general principles set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, part VII. It is, of course, the prerogative of the Member States to define the terms and conditions governing accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations in United Nations conferences and other deliberations. Greater coherence, consistency and predictability in this regard would further enhance relations between the United Nations and civil society as a whole.

228. Partnerships with the private sector are also critical. The Global Compact has worked with businesses across the world to encourage corporate responsibility in the spheres of human rights, labour standards and the environment. With partners at the national level, and with the support of United Nations organizations, programmes and funds, the Global Compact has now been launched in every region of the world. In Asia, for example, the International Organization of Employers worked with the International Labour Organization to

undertake a regional survey of the implementation of the Compact, to establish management and advocacy groups at the national level, and to find the most effective approaches for engaging companies in Asia in the work of the Compact.

229. The Global Compact's first progress report was released in July 2002, and records the achievements of the Compact so far. Specifically, in 2001-2002, the Compact formed a Global Compact Advisory Council and set up working groups on a variety of issues, including sustainable investment in the least developed countries; continued a policy dialogue on the role of business in zones of conflict, and initiated a second on business and sustainable development; established the learning forum as a database of case studies by companies that are translating the Compact's principles into practice; facilitated Partnership Projects between companies and United Nations organizations, funds and programmes; and consolidated outreach at the national level through high-level advocacy and official country launches.

Conclusion

230. This annual report provides an overview of what the United Nations is doing to help solve pressing global problems, and to strengthen international cooperation. More detailed assessments of specific issues reviewed in this report are contained in my other reports to the legislative organs. Developments during the past year have affirmed the Organization's increasing relevance in world affairs; but a review of the work of the Organization is also a reminder that much still needs to be done to achieve the aims and goals of the Charter and the Millennium Declaration. In the coming year, let us take every opportunity to use the Organization in our common endeavour to achieve lasting peace and justice.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter I (pp. 39–101)

International peace and security

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 40: Followup to Millennium Summit (2000), 40; Conflict prevention, 41; Roster of 2002 political and peace-building offices, 47. THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 49: International terrorism, 49. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 60: General aspects of UN peacekeeping, 60; Comprehensive review of peacekeeping, 70; Operations in 2002, 72; Roster of 2002 operations, 73; Financial and administrative aspects of peacekeeping operations, 74. OTHER PEACEKEEPING MATTERS, 88.

The United Nations strengthened efforts in 2002 to respond to new and continuing global, regional and national challenges to international peace and security, particularly the threat of international terrorism. Through the activities of its Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Security Council monitored the implementation of the measures it had adopted in 2001 to counter international terrorism and assisted many States in developing their capacity to do so. The Council held a high-level meeting of remembrance on the anniversary of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States to review progress in that regard. Steps were also taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the International Atomic Energy Agency to address the criminal and nuclear implications of international terrorism, while the General Assembly strengthened the Secretariat's Terrorism Prevention Branch. Those efforts were however overshadowed by new terrorist acts in the latter part of the year in several parts of the world. The Security Council, in separate resolutions, condemned terrorist attacks in Indonesia, Kenya and the Russian Federation and urged Member States to assist those countries to find and bring the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors to justice. In December, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to study ways to promote further, in the context of implementing the Millennium Declaration, a more comprehensive and coherent response to the global threats and challenges of the twenty-first century.

To help the Council deal with regional and national threats to international peace and security, the Secretary-General examined the role of the United Nations in conflict prevention and made a number of proposals for bolstering national, regional and international conflict prevention capacities and efforts at conflict management. In that regard, the Council addressed the issue of preventing armed conflict, the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict in Africa, food aid in conflict settlement and the role regional organizations could play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

United Nations efforts in conflict prevention and peace-building continued to be supported by its political and peace-building missions, which rose in number to 14 during 2002. The Organization also took steps to further streamline and strengthen the management of its peacekeeping operations through the implementation of the recommendations made in 2000 in the Brahimi report by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. As part of those efforts, it enhanced the Department of Peacekeeping Operations standby arrangement and rapid deployment capacity, including the creation of strategic deployment stocks at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy. During the year, the United Nations created one new peacekeeping mission and three missions completed their mandates. The total number of missions in operation at the end of the year dropped to 13. The number of military personnel and civilian police serving under United Nations command fell to 39,652 at the end of 2002 compared to 47,000 the year before. The Assembly designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, to be observed annually to pay tribute to all those who had served and continued to serve in UN peacekeeping missions and to honour the memory of those who had lost their lives in the cause of peace.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the body responsible for reviewing UN peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, met in February. It made recommendations on additional

mechanisms for consultations with troopcontributing countries and on action to enhance UN peacekeeping capacity, as well as for increased cooperation with regional arrangements.

The financial situation of UN peacekeeping operations improved during the financial period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. Although the cost of those operations increased from \$2,378.7 million during the previous financial period to \$2,578.1 million, unpaid assessed contributions decreased to \$1.2 billion, compared to \$2.3 billion. The Assembly considered various aspects of peacekeeping financing, including the peacekeeping support account and the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi. The Assembly also had before it recommendations for improving the conditions of the field service category of staff and for improving recruitment policies and procedures.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter II (pp. 102–239)

Africa

PROMOTION OF PEACE IN AFRICA, 91. CENTRAL AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES REGION, 98: Democratic Republic of the Congo, 102; Burundi, 135; Rwanda, 141; Central African Republic, 142. WEST AFRICA, 147: SIERRA Leone, 148; Liberia, 165; Guinea-Bissau, 176; Côte d'Ivoire, 180. HORN OF AFRICA, 182: Eritrea-Ethiopia, 182; Somalia, 196. NORTH AFRICA, 209: Western Sahara, 209; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 216; Sudan, 217. SOUTHERN AFRICA, 218: Angola, 218. OTHER QUESTIONS, 233: Comoros, 233; Mozambique, 234; Cooperation between OAU/AU and the UN system, 234.

Conflicts in several African countries showed signs of abatement in 2002, due in part to United Nations involvement in the peace processes and mediation efforts. While the most remarkable progress was seen in Angola and Sierra Leone, improvements were also reported in Burundi, in the dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and in the Sudan. Although the fighting in most countries was at reduced levels in 2002, Africa continued to be plagued by other woes, such as poverty and economic stagnation, the spread of HIV/ AIDS and other diseases, massive movements of refugees and displaced persons, natural disasters, the flow of illegal arms, and the illegal trade in raw diamonds, which perpetuated war.

During the year, the Security Council and the General Assembly examined the causes of conflict and ways to promote sustainable peace in Africa. At a series of open meetings on the issue, Council members proposed a number of measures to prevent conflict on the continent and to promote peace, highlighting the importance of cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (which became the African Union (AU) later in the year) and African subregional organizations in implementing them. Those proposals were summarized in a document issued by the Council President, which included ideas expressed by members on lessons learned in planning peacekeeping operations and the transition from peacekeeping to peace-building. On the same subject, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council a July report following up on his 1998 proposals on causes of conflict and the promotion of sustainable development in Africa. He reviewed recent UN activities in peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building.

After 27 years of war, the political and military situation in Angola entered a new phase in 2002, with rapid changes that brought an end to the fighting and an agreement between the Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The February death of Jonas Savimbi, the UNITA military leader, was followed by the signing in April of a memorandum of understanding. Under its terms, the responsibilities of the Angolan armed forces and those of UNITA were defined with regard to observing a ceasefire, quartering UNITA soldiers and collecting weapons. At Angola's request, the United Nations increased its involvement in the peace process and transformed the United Nations Office in Angola into a peacebuilding mission, renamed the United Nations Mission in Angola. The Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA concluded that the sanctions had greatly contributed to the downfall of UNITA. After the Government and UNITA continued to demonstrate their intention to fulfil the terms of the 1994 Lusaka Protocol and UNITA became a political party, the Security Council, in December, abolished the sanctions.

The Great Lakes region continued to be seriously affected by fighting among armed groups and between rebel groups and Governments. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi, the year opened with heavy fighting that diminished by the end of the year, possibly indicating further progress in the peace processes in both countries. Rwanda and Uganda, which had provided military support for the opposition forces in the DRC, signed individual agreements with the DRC on the removal of their forces from that country. Following the signing of the agreements, Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe began withdrawing troops from DRC territory. In December, participants from numerous internal factions gathered in Pretoria, South Africa, for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and agreed on a two-year transitional government under a power-sharing arrangement, to be followed by national elections.

In Burundi, where a Transitional Government was established in late 2001, the lack of a ceasefire and general insecurity led to increased fighting in mid-2002. However, the situation became more hopeful when the Facilitator of the peace process was able to bring three of the four rebel parties together to conclude ceasefire agreements with the Government.

The Central African Republic enjoyed relative stability and social peace in early 2002, despite its desperate economic situation. Relations between the Government and the opposition improved as a result and a political dialogue was organized with UN assistance. However, a former military leader, François Bozizé, led an attempted coup in the north, and the Government accused Chad of involvement in an attack on Bangui, the capital, which Chad denied. The armed rebellion, together with the insecurity suffered by the population, was a destabilizing development, and regional plans were drawn up to send a security force to the Central African Republic to observe the border with Chad and to ensure the safety of the President.

The situation improved in parts of West Africa, particularly in Sierra Leone, where the largest UN peacekeeping mission—the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)—continued to monitor and supervise the ceasefire signed in 2000 and to oversee the disarmament process, which was completed in January. The Security Council expanded UNAMSIL’s mandate to include assisting in the national elections, which were held on 14 May. The Council welcomed the election results as a milestone in the Sierra Leone peace process. The Special Court for Sierra Leone was established after the announcement of the election results, and the Council decided in September to gradually reduce the size of UNAMSIL in order to avoid a sudden security vacuum.

In Liberia, on the other hand, the conflict between government forces and armed dissidents escalated, resulting in flows of refugees and displaced persons, and elements from both sides of the conflict crossed into Sierra Leone to find food and refuge. A Panel of Experts set up by the Council to investigate violations of the arms embargo against Liberia and the ban on the export of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone issued reports in April and October.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau remained fragile due to its political, economic and social difficulties, but there was no armed conflict. The country’s newly established democratic system was strengthened with the National Assembly’s resumption of work, preparations for local elections and the establishment of a court system. However, the political opposition and competing interests among the branches of Government brought the process to a standstill, and the President dissolved Parliament.

When rebels in Côte d’Ivoire attempted to overthrow the elected Government in September, France sent troops there to prevent further fighting and monitor a ceasefire, pending the deployment of a West African peacekeeping force. The Security Council, in December, expressed support for the planned deployment of such a force by the Economic Community of West African States.

The peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which were involved in a border dispute, progressed steadily in the wake of the signing of a ceasefire agreement and the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone in 2000. The Boundary Commission completed its work on the delimitation of the border and, with the assistance of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), began demarcation of the border. Despite some resistance by both parties, UNMEE was generally able to monitor the boundary area and the Security Council adjusted its mandate to include assisting the Boundary Commission in demarcation work, demining activities and administrative and logistical support.

Somalia remained a country of warring factions, despite considerable progress in reaching agreement on the national reconciliation process. The Transitional National Government, established in 2000, continued efforts to bring together the Somali factions that had not joined earlier reconciliation attempts. Mediation efforts were led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the United Nations. After months of delay, IGAD was successful in organizing a conference in Eldoret, Kenya, attended by many political factions and civil society representatives, which culminated in the adoption of the “Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities and the Structure and Principles of the Somalia National Reconciliation Process”, in which the participants agreed to set up governance structures and guarantee the security of humanitarian personnel and installations. Although the document provided a method to achieve national unity, Somaliland remained outside the process and there was

an increase in factional as well as inter- and intra-clan fighting. Somalia remained one of the most dangerous environments in which the United Nations operated.

The United Nations continued to face opposition to implementation of the 1990 settlement plan for Western Sahara, by which Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO) had agreed to hold a referendum for the selfdetermination of the Territory. The parties were not willing to cooperate fully on the plan or to find another political solution, as proposed by the United Nations, either by dividing power between a local administration and Morocco or by dividing the Territory. Despite the stalled negotiations, Morocco and POLISARIO agreed to some confidence-building measures such as familial visits, exchange of communications and release of prisoners. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara continued to monitor the ceasefire.

The internal conflict in the Sudan intensified in early 2002 and casualties increased in fighting between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army. Through the mediation efforts of IGAD and the President of Kenya, the parties reached an agreement, signed in Machakos, Kenya, in July, on solving contentious issues.

In the light of the 9 July transformation of OAU into the AU, the Secretary-General reported that the changes implied that the AU would assume the rights and responsibilities of OAU to participate in UN meetings as an observer, and the General Assembly concurred with that determination. The Secretary-General also reported on cooperation between the United Nations and OAU/AU. He noted that the United Nations was supporting the organization in the process of establishing new organs and structures, and in the drafting of terms of reference and rules of procedure. The Assembly, in December, welcomed the cooperation between the organizations and outlined areas for strengthening UN assistance to the AU.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter III (pp. 239–255)

Americas

CENTRAL AMERICA, 239: Guatemala, 243. HAITI, 249: Financing of Missions, 249. OTHER QUESTIONS, 251: Cuba–United States, 251; Cooperation with OAS, 252; Cooperation with CARICOM, 253; Colombia, 255; El Salvador–Honduras, 255; South American zone of peace, 255.

The United Nations continued, throughout 2002, to assist countries in the Americas region in strengthening political stability, security, economic and social development, judicial reform and respect for human rights. The Organization monitored the political and security situation in Central America, where, despite serious delays in implementation of the peace agreements in Guatemala, consolidation of greater democratization throughout the subregion progressed.

The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) continued to fulfil its mandate of verifying compliance with the 1996 peace accords between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, and to monitor compliance with the 2000-2004 verification timetable. Despite the stated commitment of the Guatemalan Government, the new deadlines had not been met and increased political polarization impeded implementation of the peace agreements. In December, the General Assembly extended MINUGUA's mandate until 31 December 2003.

In Haiti, despite efforts by the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community to promote dialogue, the political and security crisis continued, further undermining social and economic development. The United Nations Development Programme coordinated UN assistance to Haiti throughout the year.

In November, the Assembly again called on States to refrain from promulgating laws that imposed economic and trade measures on other States, such as the ongoing United States economic embargo against Cuba. It also adopted resolutions on strengthening cooperation with the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter IV (pp. 256–334)

Asia and the Pacific

AFGHANISTAN, 257: Situation in Afghanistan, 257; Sanctions, 279. IRAQ, 285: UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission and IAEA activities, 286. IRAQ-KUWAIT, 296: Arms and related sanctions, 301; Oil-for-food programme, 303; UN Compensation Commission and Fund, 314; Other issues, 315. TIMOR-LESTE, 315: Financing of UN operations, 327. OTHER MATTERS, 330: Cambodia, 330; IndiaPakistan, 330; Iran-Iraq, 331; Korea question, 331; Nepal, 332; Papua New Guinea, 332; Tajikistan, 333; United Arab Emirates–Iran, 333; UN-ASEAN cooperation, 333.

In 2002, the United Nations continued to address major political and security challenges in the Asia and Pacific region, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq. It also oversaw the successful transition of East Timor into the independent State of Timor-Leste.

In Afghanistan, the United Nations provided assistance as the country moved from more than two decades of war to the beginnings of a postTaliban stability. The peace process progressed, despite insecurity in some areas of the country and continued terrorist acts by members of the Taliban and Al-Qa'idah. The power-sharing Afghan Interim Authority was replaced in June by an indirectly elected Transitional Authority, following the successful conclusion of a nationwide traditional assembly, or Loya Jirga. In March, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan was created to assist the Afghans in the implementation of the 2001 Bonn Agreement and to begin the task of reconstruction. The International Security Assistance Force continued to maintain security in Kabul and its surrounding areas and its mandate was twice extended by the Security Council, in May and November, each time for six months. The Secretary-General visited Afghanistan and neighbouring countries in January and also attended the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, which was held in Tokyo, Japan. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, continued to coordinate UN activities in the country.

Throughout 2002, international pressure on Iraq to allow the return of UN inspectors to verify compliance with weapons-related obligations intensified. In a statement to the General Assembly on 12 September, the President of the United States, George W. Bush, demanded the disarmament of Iraq and said that the United States would work for the adoption of the necessary resolutions. On 16 September, Iraq informed the United Nations that it accepted the return of inspectors without conditions. Inspections resumed on 27 November, following the unanimous adoption of Council resolution 1441(2002), which strengthened the inspection regime and afforded Iraq a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations. The resumption of inspections brought to an end the stalemate between the United Nations and Iraq that had lasted since 1998, when Iraq's Government refused to cooperate in the implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning its weapons programmes. Iraq also began to show flexibility with regard to the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals from Iraq and on the return of all Kuwaiti property seized by Iraq during the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, though the return of Kuwaiti property remained incomplete by the end of the year. The oil-for-food programme, as modified by the goods review list, continued to address basic humanitarian needs. The Council made additional amendments to the existing list of items contained in the goods review list. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission continued to monitor the demilitarized zone between the two countries.

On 20 May, the United Nations successfully concluded the transitional administration of East Timor. On that day, East Timor became an independent State and, four months later, it was admitted to the United Nations under the new official name of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. The Assembly removed East Timor from the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories prior to its accession to independence. A constitution was adopted in March and presidential elections were held in April, which resulted in the election of Xanana Gusmão. The mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor

was extended until 20 May in order to allow the mission to complete the handover of authority from the United Nations to Timor-Leste's governing institutions. A post-independence peacekeeping mission—the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor—was established in May to provide support to East Timor's fledgling democratic institutions.

During the first half of 2002, an escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir brought the two countries to the brink of war and created great international anxiety. The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan continued to monitor the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The activities of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding were extended for another year, until 1 June 2003, in order to continue to support Tajikistan in its post-conflict peace-building efforts. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to resume negotiations to conclude an agreement with Cambodia on the establishment of a tribunal to try Khmer Rouge leaders for crimes against humanity.

Among other concerns in the region that were brought to the attention of the United Nations were the situation in Bougainville, a province of Papua New Guinea; violations reported by Iran and Iraq of their 1988 ceasefire agreement and the 1991 agreements on the area of separation between them; the application of safeguards for nuclear material in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and cooperation with the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

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Chapter V (pp. 334–412)

Europe and the Mediterranean

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, 335: UN operations, 335; Prevlaka peninsula, 339. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, 344: Transition to new international civilian presence, 345; Implementation of Peace Agreement, 346. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA, 366: Situation in Kosovo, 367; Other issues, 383. FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, 383. GEORGIA, 384: UN Observer Mission in Georgia, 384; Georgia– Russian Federation relations, 395. ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN, 397. CYPRUS, 397: Good offices mission, 398; UNFICYP, 401. OTHER ISSUES, 404: Cooperation with OSCE, 404; Cooperation with the Council of Europe, 408; Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, 410; Stability and development in South-Eastern Europe, 411.

The Europe and the Mediterranean region registered important milestones in resolving its many conflict situations and restoring peace and stability in 2002, particularly in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), which successfully concluded their bilateral negotiations relating to the dispute over the Prevlaka peninsula, signed the 10 December Protocol on the Interim Regime along the Southern Border between the Two States. That development allowed the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka, which had monitored the demilitarization of the peninsula and neighbouring territories since 1992, to hand over responsibility for the area to the local authorities of both countries and to withdraw in December. The United Nations also successfully concluded its mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the most complex and difficult UN police peacekeeping missions, which ended on 31 December and was to be succeeded by the follow-on European Union Police Mission from 1 January 2003.

The Kosovo province of FRY continued to make significant progress towards provisional self-governance, and to promote inter-ethnic reconciliation and economic and social reconstruction. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) began transferring authority to the provisional institutions of self-government. To facilitate a process that would determine Kosovo's final status, the Special Representative set benchmarks that had to be reached before that process could begin. Further evidence of the continuing stability of Kosovo was the successful holding of municipal elections in October. However, the divided town of Mitrovica continued to present a number of challenges, which led the Special Representative to put forward in October a seven-point plan for dealing with the situation there. In November, UNMIK succeeded in establishing its administration in northern Mitrovica town, thus bringing the entire territory of Kosovo under UNMIK control for the first time. In December, the Security Council sent a mission to Kosovo to, among other objectives, find ways to enhance support for the implementation of its resolution 1244(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 353], discuss the challenges faced by UNMIK and convey a strong message to all concerned to move forward with the decentralization process and promote interethnic reconciliation.

Relations with the Federal Government in Belgrade continued to improve. In March, FRY transferred a large number of Kosovo Albanian detainees to Kosovo from Serbia proper, as well as court files pertaining to the majority of the remaining detainees. It also agreed to stop financing parallel institutions, especially in Mitrovica town.

Unfortunately, the situation in the Abkhaz region of Georgia continued to cause grave concern. The Georgian-Abkhazia peace process remained stalled as the two sides failed to begin discussions of the paper on the Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi (Georgia's Government) and Sukhumi (the Abkhaz leadership), which was to serve as a basis for substantial negotiations; nor was success achieved in convening meetings of the Coordinating Council, part of the United Nations-led Geneva peace process [YUN 1997, p. 365]. The situation was further aggravated by the holding in March of "parliamentary elections" in Abkhazia, Georgia, which was condemned by the international community, and the continuing

tension in the Kodori Valley, created by the presence of Georgian forces there; some progress was made in defusing that tension, however, through the signing of two protocols designed to restore stability to the Valley.

No progress was made towards a settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

In the Mediterranean region, there was renewed optimism for a settlement of the Cyprus question. For the first time, the leaders of the two Cypriot communities, Glafcos Clerides, President of Cyprus, and Rauf R. Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, held direct talks with a view to reaching a comprehensive settlement. To help move the process forward, the Secretary-General presented to the two sides in November his comprehensive settlement proposal entitled “Basis for Agreement on a Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem”, which he revised in December to bridge remaining gaps between the parties. Further negotiations based on the Secretary General’s plan were to resume in early 2003.

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Chapter VI (pp. 413–485)

Middle East

PEACE PROCESS, 414: Overall situation, 414; Occupied Palestinian Territory, 415. ISSUES RELATED TO PALESTINE, 454: General aspects, 454; Assistance to Palestinians, 461; UNRWA, 463. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 472: Lebanon, 473; Syrian Arab Republic, 480.

The strife in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continued throughout 2002 with increasing intensity, causing heavy loss of life, widespread destruction and a breakdown in the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The impasse persisted despite many international efforts to keep alive the 2001 Mitchell Committee recommendations on ending the violence, starting with an unconditional ceasefire.

The Palestinian intifada (uprising), which had erupted in September 2000 following the visit of then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon to a holy Islamic site in the Old City of Jerusalem, continued unabated. Palestinian paramilitary groups resorted to an ever more frequent use of suicide bombers. For its part, Israel, on 28 March, launched a military action, Operation Defensive Shield, which led to the reoccupation by Israel of almost all the major Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank, in particular Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin. In Ramallah, the main target was the headquarters of Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and PLO Chairman. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem—one of the holiest Christian sites—was besieged by Israeli forces for 39 days. Israel's April military operation against the Jenin refugee camp brought devastation and suffering to some 14,000 refugees. The camp sustained a high death and injury toll, exacerbated by extensive property damage. The Secretary-General's initiative to establish a fact-finding team to report on the events that took place inside the camp was welcomed by the Security Council. However, due to lack of cooperation from the Israeli Government, the Secretary-General was forced to disband the team. In June, Israel launched another military offensive resulting in the reoccupation of seven West Bank cities, the arrest of suspected militants and their relatives, house demolitions, a tight regime of internal and external closures and stringent on-and-off curfews.

The Quartet, a coordinating mechanism for international peace efforts, which comprised the Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations, continued its efforts to mediate a ceasefire and to revive the peace process. At an April meeting in Madrid, Spain, the Quartet called for a comprehensive approach to address security, economic and political concerns. In July, in New York, the Quartet expressed strong support for achieving a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement, consistent with a 24 June statement by George W. Bush, President of the United States, in which he called for two democratic States living side by side in peace and security. The Quartet agreed in September on a three-year, three-phase road map to achieve a comprehensive peace. The first phase would involve Palestinian security reform, Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian elections in early 2003. By the end of December, the Quartet was in the process of finalizing the road map. It reported some progress by the PA to advance political and security reform, and Israel had transferred some tax revenues to the PA. Another major international effort to reach a solution to the conflict was made in March by the League of Arab States (LAS), based on a Saudi Arabian proposal. Under that plan, Israel would withdraw from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and accept a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, in return for the establishment of normal relations with all Arab States in the context of a comprehensive peace.

Concerned about the deteriorating situation in the region, the Security Council convened 15 times during the year to discuss the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. On 12 March, the Council adopted a resolution that affirmed its vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, lived side by side within secure and recognized borders. It called on the two sides to cooperate in implementing the Mitchell report recommendations. On 30 March, the Council called on both parties to move to a meaningful ceasefire and for Israeli forces to withdraw from Palestinian cities; it demanded the

implementation of those terms on 4 April. On 19 April, the Council welcomed the Secretary General's initiative to establish a fact-finding team to report on the events in the Jenin refugee camp. Expressing concern at the 19 September reoccupation of Mr. Arafat's headquarters, the Council, on 24 September, demanded that Israel cease measures in and around Ramallah and called on the PA to bring those responsible for terrorist acts to justice. In December, a draft resolution, by which the Council would have condemned the killing by Israeli forces of UN employees and the destruction of a United Nations World Food Programme warehouse, was not adopted due to the negative vote of the United States, a permanent Council member. Throughout the year, the Council also expressed its support for the Quartet's efforts and the LAS initiative.

In May and August, the General Assembly resumed its tenth emergency special session, which first convened in 1997, to discuss the item "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". In May, the Assembly condemned Israel's refusal to cooperate with the Jenin fact-finding team and requested the Secretary-General to present a report, drawing upon available information, on the events that took place in the camp. In August, the Assembly considered the Secretary-General's report, called for a cessation of military incursions and all acts of violence, and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces to the positions held prior to September 2000.

At its regular session in December, the Assembly welcomed the Quartet's efforts and the LAS peace initiative, and stressed the necessity for a commitment to the vision of a two-State solution and the principle of land for peace.

In southern Lebanon, Israeli forces and their main Lebanese opponents, the paramilitary group Hizbullah, continued to face each other along the "Blue Line", the provisional border drawn by the United Nations following the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon in June 2000. Violations and attacks across the Blue Line occurred sporadically throughout the year. The dispute, which centred on control of the Shab'a farmland, also raised tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. Lebanon's decision to undertake a project to draw water from the Wazzani River drew protests from Israel. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General met with Lebanese authorities in December 2002, in order to defuse the situation and find a diplomatic solution.

The mandates of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights were extended twice during the year, and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization continued to assist both peacekeeping operations in their tasks. In December, having fulfilled most of its mandate with regard to observing the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, UNIFIL completed its reconfiguration and redeployment phase, thereby significantly reducing the size of the Force.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to provide a wide-ranging programme of education and health and social services to nearly 4 million Palestinian refugees living both in and outside camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. In 2002, the Agency continued to focus on humanitarian emergency assistance due to the ever-increasing level of violence and deteriorating socio-economic situation in the occupied territories. Two emergency appeals were launched to provide food, health services, shelter and short-term emergency employment opportunities for refugees.

During the year, 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 Assembly on the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People continued to mobilize international support for the Palestinians.

By decision 57/519 of 4 December, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the agenda item "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security" and included it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth (2003) 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. 486–553)

Disarmament

UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT, 487: UN machinery, 487. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, 491: Conference on Disarmament, 491; Disarmament Commission, 493; START and other bilateral agreements and unilateral measures, 493; Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 505; NonProliferation Treaty, 507; IAEA safeguards, 507; Prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, 509; Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, 510; Radioactive material, 511; Nuclear-weapon-free zones, 511. BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS, 516: Bacteriological (biological) weapons, 516; 1925 Geneva Protocol, 517; Chemical weapons, 518. CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, 519: Programme of Action on illicit trade in small arms, 520; Convention on excessively injurious conventional weapons and Protocols, 524; Practical disarmament, 526; Transparency, 527; Anti-personnel mines, 529. REGIONAL AND OTHER APPROACHES TO DISARMAMENT, 531: Africa, 531; Asia and the Pacific, 534; Europe, 534; Latin America, 535. OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES, 538: Terrorism, 538; New types of weapons of mass destruction, 539; Prevention of an arms race in outer space, 540; Disarmament and development, 541; Arms limitation and disarmament agreements, 543. STUDIES, INFORMATION AND TRAINING, 544.

In 2002, although differences among Member States persisted in various disarmament forums, progress was made regarding the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, bioterrorism, the proliferation of ballistic missile systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction and other issues.

The Conference on Disarmament, for the fourth consecutive year, remained unable to take action on its agenda items due to continuing disagreement on what would constitute a balanced programme of work. It did, however, reaffirm its commitment to work towards the approval of a programme of work, put forth in 2000 (Amorim proposal), which had envisaged the establishment of ad hoc committees with non-negotiating mandates on nuclear disarmament and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The Disarmament Commission postponed its 2002 substantive session until 2003, as it was unable to decide on an appropriate date for the session owing to postponements and changes to the UN meetings calendar, originating from the disruption of activities caused by the terrorist attacks of September 2001 in the United States. The General Assembly, taking note in November that no consensus had been reached in the Commission on the agenda and objectives of a fourth special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament, decided to establish an open-ended working group to consider the item.

Member States, UN bodies and regional and subregional organizations undertook activities, including practical disarmament measures, such as weapons collection and destruction, to implement the Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. A group of governmental experts established by the Secretary-General began studying the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace illicit weapons. However, as problems associated with the proliferation of those weapons persisted, the Security Council stressed the need to enhance international cooperation on the issue, while the Assembly called for support to civil society organizations addressing the problem and decided to convene in 2003 the first of the biennial meetings of States, as stipulated in the Programme of Action, to consider implementation of the Programme's provisions. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa was established to strengthen cooperation with regional organizations involved in peacemaking and peace-building, and to support regional efforts to promote peace and stability, including dealing with small arms-related problems in the region.

The threat posed by international terrorism, particularly regarding the potential acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) by terrorist organizations, continued to raise concern among Member States. Thus, the Assembly called for strengthened national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring those weapons and their means of delivery.

The Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction concluded its work and established a new approach for combating the deliberate use of disease as a weapon.

In November, 101 States, including four nuclear-weapon States, established a voluntary and non-legally binding international code of conduct—the Hague Code of Conduct—designed to curb the proliferation of ballistic missile systems capable of delivering WMDs.

In December, States parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects mandated the group of governmental experts established to consider the issues of explosive remnants of war, mines other than anti-personnel mines and smallcalibre weapons and ammunition to negotiate in 2003 an instrument that would reduce the risks posed by those weapons.

On the bilateral level, in May, the United States and the Russian Federation signed a new treaty in Moscow: the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, together with a Joint Declaration on a New Strategic Relationship, by which they established a new framework for future bilateral strategic arms reductions. The United States' unilateral withdrawal from the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, announced in 2001, took effect in June. The 1992 Treaty on Open Skies, adopted by members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and of the former Warsaw Pact, entered into force.

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Chapter VIII (pp. 553–610)

Other political and security questions

GENERAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 553: Support for democracies, 553. REGIONAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 554: Antarctica, 554; South America, 555. DECOLONIZATION, 557: Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 557; Puerto Rico, 568; Territories under review, 569. INFORMATION, 584: UN public information, 584; Information and communications in the context of international security, 596; Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, 597. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, 598: Implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations, 598; Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 599; Legal Subcommittee, 601. EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION, 606.

The United Nations continued in 2002 to consider political and security questions relating to the Organization's efforts to support democratization worldwide, the promotion of decolonization, public information activities and the peaceful uses of outer space.

The General Assembly, in March, welcomed Mongolia's invitation to hold the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in Ulaanbaatar in June 2003, and, in November, welcomed the July Declaration of the Presidents of South American States that their region was a zone of peace and cooperation.

The Assembly requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the 1960 Declaration and to carry out actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (1990- 2000) and the Second International Decade (2001-2010). In August, a United Nations mission visited Tokelau and Wellington, New Zealand.

In May, East Timor (renamed Timor-Leste) attained its independence; it was admitted to United Nations membership in September.

The Committee on Information discussed, as its main topic, the comprehensive review of management and operations of the Department of Public Information (DPI), which began in January and focused on areas of DPI's work that were in need of improvement. One recommendation, which was included in the Secretary-General's September report to the General Assembly on further strengthening the United Nations, was for the creation of regional hubs to rationalize the network of United Nations information centres, beginning with a Western European hub. In January, the Joint United Nations Information Committee was replaced by a new, informal and flexible mechanism called the United Nations Communications Group.

With regard to the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, the Assembly, in November, encouraged UN bodies to contribute to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes. In another November resolution, on developments in information and telecommunications, the Assembly called on Member States to promote the consideration of threats in the field of information security.

Action teams established in 2001 to implement the recommendations of the Third (1999) United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reported on progress in their work.

Due to a budget shortfall, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation postponed its fifty-first (2002) session until January 2003. In December, the Assembly requested the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to provide support for effective conduct of the Committee's work and to review and strengthen the financing of the Committee.

Part Two: Human rights
Chapter I (pp. 611–656)
Promotion of human rights

UN MACHINERY, 611: Commission on Human Rights, 611; Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 613; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 613; Strengthening action to promote human rights, 616. HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS, 622: General aspects, 622; Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocols, 625; Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 626; Convention against racial discrimination, 628; Convention against torture, 630; Convention on elimination of discrimination against women and Optional Protocol, 637; Convention on the Rights of the Child, 637; Convention on migrant workers, 638; Convention on genocide, 639. OTHER ACTIVITIES, 640: Follow-up to 1993 World Conference, 640; Advisory services and technical cooperation, 640; Human rights education, 647; Children and a culture of peace, 650; National institutions and regional arrangements, 652; Cooperation with human rights bodies, 656.

In 2002, human rights were promoted through a number of initiatives regarding legally binding instruments and the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary body, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued its human rights coordination and implementation activities, and provided advisory services and technical cooperation.

The monitoring bodies of human rights instruments promoted civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and aimed to eliminate racial discrimination and discrimination against women, to protect children and to end the practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography entered into force, the latter on 18 January and the former on 12 February.

The Optional Protocol to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, intended to establish a system of regular visits to places of detention, was adopted by the Commission in April, the Economic and Social Council in July and the General Assembly in December.

The Assembly approved the Secretary General's appointment of Sergio Vieira de Mello (Brazil) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a four-year term, beginning on 12 September.

Part Two: Human rights
Chapter II (pp. 657–772)
Protection of human rights

RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, 657: Third Decade against racism, 657. OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE, 677: Cultural prejudice, 677; Discrimination against minorities, 678; Religious intolerance, 681. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, 685: Right to self-determination, 685; Administration of justice, 689; Right to democracy, 701; Other issues, 705. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, 720: Right to development, 720; Corruption, 732; Extreme poverty, 732; Right to food, 734; Right to adequate housing, 738; Right to education, 739; Environmental and scientific concerns, 740; Right to physical and mental health, 742; Slavery and related issues, 743; Vulnerable groups, 745.

In 2002, the protection of human rights—civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural—remained a major focus of UN activities.

During the year, follow-up activities were undertaken to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In that regard, the Economic and Social Council, in July, established the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and an intergovernmental working group to make recommendations to implement DDPA, and the General Assembly, in December, proclaimed 2004 the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition.

In March, the Security Council adopted an aide-memoire to facilitate its consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict. In related action in May and December, respectively, it strongly condemned the continued targeting and use of children in armed conflicts, and attacks and violence directed against civilians and other protected persons under international law.

The 16-member Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, established to serve as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council to address indigenous issues relating to economic and social development, the environment, health, education and culture, and human rights, held its first session (13-24 May).

In 2002, the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary body, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, established new mandates for special rapporteurs concerned with: discrimination in the criminal justice system; the right to physical and mental health; the relationship between the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the promotion of the realization of the right to drinking water supply and sanitation; housing and property restitution in the context of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons; indigenous people's sovereignty over natural resources; and the prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons.

Special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts of the Commission and the Subcommission examined, among other issues, contemporary forms of racism; allegations of torture; extralegal executions; impunity; mercenary activity; the rights of migrants; the independence of the judiciary; freedom of religion or belief; human rights and terrorism; the right to development; the right to food; the right to adequate housing; the right to education; the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on human rights; internally displaced persons; illicit practices related to toxic and dangerous products and wastes; violence against women; the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; children affected by armed conflict; and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.

Working groups considered discrimination against minorities, arbitrary detention, enforced or involuntary disappearances, the right to development, bioethics and contemporary forms of slavery, and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Part Two: Human rights

Chapter III (pp. 773–812)

Human rights violations

GENERAL ASPECTS, 773. AFRICA, 773: Burundi, 773; Democratic Republic of the Congo, 774; Equatorial Guinea, 779; Sierra Leone, 779; Sudan, 781; Zimbabwe, 785. AMERICAS, 786: Colombia, 786; Cuba, 787. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 787: Afghanistan, 787; Cambodia, 792; Iran, 792; Iraq, 792; Myanmar, 796; Timor-Leste (East Timor), 799. EUROPE, 801: Cyprus, 801; The former Yugoslavia, 802; Russian Federation, 804. MIDDLE EAST, 805: Lebanon, 805; Territories occupied by Israel, 805.

Alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in a number of countries were examined in 2002 by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, as well as by special rapporteurs, special representatives of the Secretary-General and independent experts appointed to examine the allegations.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter I (pp. 813–853)

Development policy and international economic cooperation

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 813: Development and international economic cooperation, 813; Sustainable development, 821; Eradication of poverty, 827; Science and technology for development, 831. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS, 838. DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 841: Committee for Development Policy, 841; Public administration, 842. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TRANSITION ECONOMIES, 844: Least developed countries, 844; Island developing countries, 848; Landlocked developing countries, 850; Economies in transition, 851.

In 2002, the world economy began a sluggish recovery from the sharp global slowdown of the previous year, but the sustainability of the upturn was uncertain. Global growth, at 1.4 per cent, showed just marginal improvement over 2001, which experienced the weakest performance in a decade. In addition, for the second year in a row, per capita income for the world as a whole declined, marking a setback to fulfilment of the primary Millennium Development Goal (MDG), adopted by the General Assembly in 2000, of halving by 2015 the proportion of the world's people living in extreme poverty.

Achievement of poverty eradication and other MDGs was a key concern of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September), which conducted the comprehensive 10-year review of progress made in implementing Agenda 21, the action plan on sustainable development adopted by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. The Summit culminated in the adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit, by which Governments recommitted themselves to the full implementation of Agenda 21 and detailed priorities, targets and timetables for future action. In December, the General Assembly endorsed the Summit outcomes. Also, in follow-up to Summit recommendations, the Assembly declared the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, to begin in 2005, and endorsed the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty. The Commission on Sustainable Development, which devoted its 2002 session to preparations for the Summit, was charged with overseeing Summit follow-up and implementation.

The implications of globalization and new technology, especially in relation to development, were another focus of UN deliberations in 2002. In June, the Assembly devoted a special meeting to discussing the potential of information and communication technologies (ICT) in fostering development and promoting the integration of developing countries into the global economy. In December, the Assembly called for development of a comprehensive ICT strategy for the UN system and reaffirmed the Organization's central role in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence. Also during the year, the International Telecommunication Union launched preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, which was to be convened in two phases in 2003 and 2005, and the United Nations ICT Task Force commenced work as the global forum on integrating ICT into development programmes.

In April, the Committee for Development Policy considered ways of enhancing human and social capabilities for development in a knowledgebased global society, as well as aid effectiveness in Africa. The newly reconstituted Committee of Experts on Public Administration, in July, considered the role of public administration in development, especially in supporting implementation of the MDGs. In addition, UN bodies continued efforts to improve the lives of the millions of people living in particularly vulnerable areas of the world, including the economies in transition, the least developed countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries.

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Chapter II (pp. 854–884)

Operational activities for development

SYSTEM-WIDE ACTIVITIES, 854. TECHNICAL COOPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 862: UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, 863; UNDP operational activities, 864; Programme planning and management, 868; Financing, 871. OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION, 873: UN activities, 873; UN Fund for International Partnerships, 874; UN Office for Project Services, 875; UN Volunteers, 880; Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, 882; UN Capital Development Fund, 884.

In 2002, the United Nations system continued to provide development assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, primarily through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the central United Nations funding body for technical assistance. UNDP's income in 2002 reached \$3,041 million, an 8 per cent increase over 2001. Total expenditure for all programme activities and support costs in 2002 was \$2,817 million as compared with \$2,725 million the previous year. Other technical cooperation included \$46.4 million provided through the programme executed by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, \$69.3 million through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and \$22.5 million through the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

The Secretary-General reported in May on progress in implementing General Assembly resolution 56/201 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of UN operational activities for development, including the outline for planning, evaluating, implementing and reviewing those activities. Progress was assessed in the context of the world economy and the commitments and goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In July, the Economic and Social Council stressed the need for UN organizations to focus on field-level activities in accordance with the Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs). It made specific recommendations on funding operational activities for development, capacitybuilding, frameworks for programming, evaluation of activities, and simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures.

In 2002, UNDP focused on putting the MDGs at the centre of UN development work, particularly those relating to the reduction of poverty, democratic governance, response to special development situations such as crisis prevention and recovery, sustainable energy and the environment. The Programme introduced a number of management changes to strengthen its performance. It also approved proposals for improving its funding arrangements, especially the distribution model of resources.

The United Nations Office for Project Services, which continued to operate under the selffinancing principle, had a total value of project and loan portfolios of \$3.7 billion in 2002, roughly the same as in 2001, comprising \$1.4 billion in project value and \$2.3 billion in loans and grants it supervised. Total project delivery was \$509 million. That was achieved against a background of serious financial difficulties, requiring a major budget-reduction exercise and the development of a new planning methodology.

The United Nations Volunteers programme, administered by UNDP, expanded for the sixth consecutive year, with over 5,200 volunteers carrying out more than 5,500 assignments in 139 countries.

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Chapter III (pp. 885–931)

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, 885: Coordination, 885; Resource mobilization, 890; Mine clearance, 890; New international humanitarian order, 893; Humanitarian activities, 894. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 906: African economic recovery and development, 906; Other economic assistance, 920. DISASTER RELIEF, 923: International cooperation, 924; International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, 928; Disaster assistance, 931.

In 2002, the United Nations, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), continued to mobilize and coordinate humanitarian assistance to respond to the world's most pressing emergencies. During the year, consolidated inter-agency appeals were launched for Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the northern Caucasus, the Congo, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, Guinea, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, SouthEastern Europe, the Southern Africa region, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Uganda, West Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The appeals sought \$4.4 billion to assist about 45 million beneficiaries. Some \$2.9 billion was received, meeting 66.3 per cent of requirements. OCHA also mobilized and coordinated assistance in the amount of \$263 million for 67 natural disasters.

The final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was conducted in 2002. The Assembly decided to bring the New Agenda to a close and endorsed the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the region's own development initiative, adopted in 2001 by the Organization of African Unity. At a high-level plenary meeting in September, the Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The Economic and Social Council decided to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, an ad hoc advisory group to elaborate long-term programmes of support. It established such a group on Guinea-Bissau.

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Chapter IV (pp. 932–972)

International trade, finance and transport

INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 932: Trade policy, 937; Trade promotion and facilitation, 940; Commodities, 943. FINANCE, 947: Financial policy, 947; Financing for development, 953; Investment, technology and related financial issues, 965. TRANSPORT, 967: Maritime transport, 967; Transport of dangerous goods, 968. UNCTAD INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS, 968.

In 2002, world trade reversed the decline of 2001, with preliminary estimates indicating growth of almost 2 per cent. Apart from the United States and some developed economies, imports recovered in only a few countries; import expansion in the developing countries, at only 1.8 per cent, was largely centred in China and East Asia. The revival of import demand in the United States boosted exports from Japan and East Asia and also accelerated the growth of exports of countries with which the United States held free or preferential trade agreements. The recovery in international commodity prices was modest, affecting exports from Africa.

The net transfer of financial resources was negative for the developing countries as a group for the sixth straight year. The only developing region to experience a net inward transfer was Africa, where the trade deficit was financed from additional official and private financial flows. The International Conference on Financing for Development in March adopted the Monterrey Consensus, in which heads of State and Government resolved to address the challenges of financing for development, particularly in developing countries, with the goal of eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic development and promoting sustainable development towards a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system. In July, the General Assembly endorsed the Monterrey Consensus and stressed the importance of ensuring proper follow-up to the implementation of the agreements and commitments reached at the Conference.

In April, the high-level meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) discussed the outcome of the International Conference and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and agreed that a future meeting would focus on follow-up to the Conference, covering the themes of financing for development.

Another subject of discussion in the international community during the year was the relationship among trade, development and finance. In that regard, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held a high-level segment to review implementation of the work programme adopted by the 2001 WTO Ministerial Conference. In December, the Assembly expressed its determination to address the issues and concerns raised by developing countries regarding implementation of some WTO agreements and decisions. The Assembly also addressed the international debt problem and called on the international community to explore innovative mechanisms for dealing with the debt problems of developing countries and economies in transition, including debt-for-sustainable-development or multi-creditor debt swaps.

The Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD's governing body, conducted a midterm review of UNCTAD's work since its tenth session (UNCTAD X) in 2000. It adopted new guidelines for the functioning of its intergovernmental machinery and instructed its Secretary-General to initiate preparations for UNCTAD XI in 2004. TDB also reviewed the work of its subsidiary bodies.

The International Trade Centre, operated jointly by UNCTAD and WTO, substantially increased its technical cooperation assistance to developing countries and economies in transition.

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Chapter V (pp. 973–1021)

Regional economic and social activities

REGIONAL COOPERATION, 973. AFRICA, 975: Economic trends, 975; Activities in 2002, 976; Programme, administration and organizational questions, 981; Regional cooperation, 982. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 985: Economic trends, 986; Activities in 2002, 986; Programme and organizational questions, 992; Subregional activities, 1000. EUROPE, 1003: Economic trends, 1003; Activities in 2002, 1005; Operational activities, 1007; Subregional activities, 1008. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 1009: Economic trends, 1010; Activities in 2002, 1010; Programme and organizational questions, 1015; Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, 1016. WESTERN ASIA, 1017: Economic and social trends, 1017; Activities in 2002, 1018; Programme and organizational questions, 1020.

The five United Nations regional commissions continued in 2002 to provide technical cooperation, including advisory services, to their member States, promote programmes and projects, and provide training to enhance national capacitybuilding in various sectors. Four of them held regular sessions during the year: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) met in special session to revise the 2002- 2005 medium-term plan and the 2002-2003 programme of work and priorities. Its next regular session was to be held in 2003.

The Secretary-General reported on action taken to strengthen regional cooperation, including cooperation between Headquarters and the regional commissions, in the context of his report on strengthening the United Nations. The General Assembly took action to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and several regional organizations.

During the year, ECA pursued activities to help translate the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into projects and programmes for country-level implementation. In that connection, the General Assembly decided to bring to a close the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and called on the international community, including the UN system, to channel its support for Africa's industrialization effort within the NEPAD framework. The Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications adopted a successor arrangement to the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, including a Plan of Action for the Way Forward.

The Assembly, in other action, took note of the Secretary-General's report on trends in extrabudgetary resources at ECLAC and the impact on its capacity to carry out the programme of work. It urged ESCWA to comply with its own resolutions concerning the use of Arabic in issuing documents.

The Economic and Social Council, in the continuing reform of the regional commissions, approved the revision of ESCAP's conference structure, including its thematic and sectoral priorities.

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Chapter VI (pp. 1022–1029)

Energy, natural resources and cartography

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, 1022: Energy, 1022; Natural resources, 1027. CARTOGRAPHY, 1028.

The conservation, development and use of natural resources and energy were considered by several United Nations bodies in 2002, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Economic and Social Council, as recommended by the World Summit in its Plan of Implementation, terminated the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development and transferred its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Addressing the General Assembly in November, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) stated that the Agency continued to be dedicated to the achievement and promotion of a vision “Atoms For Peace”—the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation and the sharing of safe and secure nuclear technologies in peaceful applications that benefited humankind. In December, the General Assembly affirmed its confidence in IAEA’s role in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, noted the entry into force of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and urged all States to participate in the 2003 International Conference on the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material.

During 2002, preparations continued for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, coordinated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The body that had formerly coordinated the Year, the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources, ceased to exist on 31 December 2001.

The Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended that the Ninth Conference be held in 2007 and that geographical names authorities worldwide present an activities report in 2007 on the promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names. The Economic and Social Council accepted Japan’s offer to host the Sixteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2003.

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Chapter VII (pp. 1030–1075)

Environment and human settlements

ENVIRONMENT, 1030: UN Environment Programme, 1030; International conventions and mechanisms, 1042; Environmental activities, 1049. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 1067: Follow-up to the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the 2001 General Assembly special session, 1067; UN Human Settlements Programme, 1071; UN Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, 1074.

In 2002, the United Nations and the international community continued efforts to protect the environment through legally binding instruments and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The seventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council/third Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) adopted the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, which contained recommendations for improved coherence in international environmental policy-making and on the GC/GMEF role and structure in guiding worldwide environmental efforts.

During the year, numerous UNEP activities focused on the preparations for and outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821), which adopted a Plan of Implementation containing, among other measures, proposals relating to environmental questions. In other action, UNEP presented the third report in the Global Environment Outlook series, which examined the state and management of the environment over the preceding 30 years, and continued to develop a strategy to enhance civil society engagement in its work. The UNEP Governing Council adopted guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements.

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Hague Ministerial Declaration, which endorsed a 2010 target for a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity. The 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was closed for signature on 22 May with 151 signatories. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, which stressed that, in addition to mitigation, high priority be given to adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. The combined sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer extended the trial period of the fixed-exchange-rate mechanism for the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for a further three years.

The Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, the culminating global event of the International Year of Mountains (2002), formulated the Bishkek Mountain Platform to provide a framework for stakeholders and others to contribute to sustainable mountain development. The World Ecotourism Summit, which adopted the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism, was the highlight of the International Year of Ecotourism.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) began functioning as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly on 1 January. The transformation and reform process, completed in 2001, enabled UN-Habitat to adopt development goals and norms that would assist in implementing the 1996 Habitat Agenda, the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted at the 2001 General Assembly special session for an overall review and appraisal of the Agenda. The Committee of Permanent Representatives discussed, among other issues, proposed revisions to UN-Habitat's medium-term plan for 2002-2005, including the addition of a new subprogramme on the financing of human settlements.

The General Assembly elected Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (United Republic of Tanzania) as Executive Director of UN-Habitat for a four-year term beginning on 1 September.

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Chapter VIII (pp. 1076–1085)

Population

FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1994 CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, 1076. UN POPULATION FUND, 1077. OTHER POPULATION ACTIVITIES, 1083.

During 2002, the population activities of the United Nations continued to be guided by the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the largest internationally funded source of population assistance, was the lead Un organization for advancing the ICPD Programme of Action. In 2002, the Fund experienced declining programme resources with the loss of \$34 million from a major donor. However, it received unprecedented support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/UNFPA Executive Board, and from the grass-roots campaign “34 Million Friends”. The Fund also recorded one of its highest levels in programme expenditure, spending \$203.6 million on country and intercountry programmes. The Fund’s transition plan, enacted in 2001 with the aim of developing a strategic vision of UNFPA’s goals and of providing greater support to the field, was completed in December.

The Commission on Population and Development, in April, considered the central theme of reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to HIV/AIDS, and adopted a resolution on the subject. Other matters before the Commission included financial resources to implement the ICPD Programme of Action, world population monitoring and the activities of the UN Population Division.

The Population Division continued to analyse world demographic trends and policies. New publications included the International Migration Report 2002 and HIV/AIDS: Awareness and Behaviour

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Chapter IX (pp. 1086–1135)

Social policy, crime prevention and human resources development

SOCIAL POLICY AND CULTURAL ISSUES, 1086: Social development, 1086; UN Research Institute for Social Development, 1089; Follow-up to International Year of the Family (1994), 1089; Persons with disabilities, 1091; Cultural development, 1096. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 1099: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 1099; UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, 1110; Transnational crime, 1114; Strategies for crime prevention, 1116; UN standards and norms, 1123. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, 1131: UN research and training institutes, 1132; Education for all, 1134.

In 2002, the United Nations continued to promote the advancement of social, cultural and human resources development, and to strengthen its crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

In July, work began on the drafting of a comprehensive international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. The Economic and Social Council renewed until 2004 the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, following a review of his report on the implementation of the 1993 Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

The Commission, in February, having considered as its priority theme the integration of social and economic policy, adopted agreed conclusions, which were reviewed by the Council's high-level segment and the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The General Assembly considered follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and to its twenty-fourth (2000) special session, and preparations for observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004.

In December, the Assembly devoted a plenary meeting to mark the end of the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, observed in 2002 to raise awareness of the importance of protecting the world cultural heritage. To enhance respect for cultural diversity, the Assembly addressed culture and development, the Olympic Truce, and observance of a Year of Kyrgyz Statehood in 2003.

During the year, progress was made in negotiations on a UN convention against corruption, and the Assembly decided to convene a high-level political conference to sign the new convention by the end of 2003. The Assembly invited Governments to use the plans of action for implementing the 2000 Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century as a guide in formulating legislation, policies and programmes in crime prevention and criminal justice. In December, the Assembly considered follow-up to the plans of action. It also took action on the implementation of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two supplementary protocols, preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2005), and the prevention of computer-related crimes.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice discussed strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism and made recommendations for enhancing the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention on countering terrorism. The Council accepted the Commission's new Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, noted a set of basic principles drafted by the Commission on the use of restorative justice, and addressed ways of combating kidnapping and of dealing with the problems of missing children and sexual abuse or exploitation of children.

In continuing efforts to achieve the goal of education for all, the Assembly, in December, welcomed a plan of action submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for successful implementation of the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012).

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Chapter X (pp. 1136–1167)

Women

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND BEIJING+5, 1136. UN MACHINERY, 1156; Convention on elimination of discrimination against women, 1156; Commission on the Status of Women, 1158; UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), 1164; International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW), 1165.

During 2002, United Nations efforts to advance the status of women and ensure their rights continued to be guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women. The outcome of the General Assembly's twenty-third special session in 2000, to appraise and assess implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+5), prompted further action and initiatives for the advancement of women.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-sixth session in March, recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption agreed conclusions on its two thematic issues: eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world, and a gender perspective of environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters. The Council endorsed the agreed conclusions in July. Also on the Commission's recommendation, the Council adopted resolutions/decisions on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan; the communications procedure relating to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system. The Commission adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflict; and women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women continued to focus on women's economic security and political empowerment, and to advocate for gender mainstreaming and equality. During the year, the Assembly adopted resolutions on trafficking in women and girls, the situation of older women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, and the elimination of violence against women.

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), which continued to implement phase III and initiated phase IV of its Gender Awareness Information and Networking System, was the subject of an evaluation by the Working Group on the Future Operation of INSTRAW, established by the Assembly in 2001. The Group proposed measures to achieve a closer linkage between INSTRAW and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Assembly endorsed the Group's recommendations and extended its mandate to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations.

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Chapter XI (pp. 1168–1199)

Children, youth and ageing persons

CHILDREN, 1168: General Assembly special session, 1168; United Nations Children's Fund, 1183. YOUTH, 1192. AGEING PERSONS, 1193: Second World Assembly on Ageing, 1193.

In 2002, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to work with its partners to ensure that every child was cared for, nurtured and protected early in life; was fully immunized and received essential nutrients; was helped to avoid contracting HIV/AIDS; was protected from harm, abuse and violence, including war; and that all children completed their education.

The General Assembly convened its twentyseventh special session on children (New York, 8- 10 May) and adopted "A world fit for children", an outcome document consisting of a declaration reaffirming participants' commitments to act together for the benefit of children; a review of progress made in achieving the goals of the 1990 World Summit for Children; and a plan of action. For the first time in the history of UN meetings, the special session included more than 600 children as delegates and active participants.

UNICEF began work on the five organizational priorities established in its 2002-2005 medium term strategic plan: girls' education; fighting HIV/AIDS; integrated early childhood development; immunization "plus"; and improved protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination. In 2002, UNICEF's Executive Board held two regular sessions in January and September and its annual session in June, adopting 19 decisions.

The two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, entered into force on 18 January and 12 February, respectively (see p. 637).

In 2002, the United Nations continued its efforts to strengthen the implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. In December, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to prepare national reviews and action plans on youth employment and to involve youth organizations and young people in the process.

The Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April) adopted a Political Declaration by which participants reaffirmed the commitment made during the first World Assembly in 1982 to improve the lives of older persons. It also adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, containing recommendations for action in three priority areas: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments for older persons.

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Chapter XII (pp. 1199–1215)

Refugees and displaced persons

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, 1199: Programme policy, 1199; Financial and administrative questions, 1204. REFUGEE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE, 1205: Protection issues, 1205; Assistance measures, 1207; Regional activities, 1208.

In 2002, the total number of persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commission r for Refugees (UNHCR) stood at 20.8 million, an increase over the 2001 figure of 19.8 million. Of that number, some 11.5 million were refugees, 4.4 million were internally displaced persons, 3.5 million returned to their places of origin, 927,684 were asylum-seekers and the remaining 445,970 included forced migrants and stateless persons.

During the year, UNHCR achieved successes in some areas but was thwarted by obstacles in others. On the positive side, the return home of some 2 million Afghans was the largest repatriation of refugees in over three decades. Other significant developments were new peace agreements in Angola (see p. 218), Sierra Leone (see p. 148) and Sri Lanka, where a ceasefire brought an end to 20 years of hostilities and resulted in the spontaneous return of about 260,000 internally displaced persons. The independence of Timor-Leste (see p. 315) encouraged the successful repatriation of 31,000 individuals. On the negative side, millions lingered in protracted refugee situations in southwest Algeria, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania, with no clear prospects of durable solutions. In Liberia, the ongoing conflict (see p. 165) led to thousands having to flee for their lives. Côte d'Ivoire was plunged into political conflict, resulting in disastrous repercussions for 35,000 nationals who fled into neighbouring countries, and for over 40,000 (mainly Liberian) refugees who had to be repatriated from the country. Similarly, in Burundi, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, refugees were on the move to escape conflict and general insecurity. In the Americas, hostilities continued with increased intensity in Colombia, causing thousands of civilians to cross borders in search of protection.

The Global Consultations on International Protection, launched in 2000, concluded in 2002 with the adoption of the Agenda for Protection, a multi-year programme of action for States, UNHCR, non-governmental organizations and other partners to improve the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. In continuing efforts to enhance its work in the field of protection and durable solutions, UNHCR established a new Code of Conduct to guide staff in dealing with difficult ethical and moral issues, and a new protection information unit. It also launched its Strategic Plan 2002-2004, drafted in 2001, to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention and care in refugee situations. In December, the General Assembly extended UNHCR's mandate for a further period of five years, effective 1 January 2004.

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Chapter XIII (pp. 1216–1227)

Health, food and nutrition

HEALTH, 1216: AIDS prevention and control, 1216; Tobacco, 1221; Roll Back Malaria initiative, 1222. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 1224: Food aid, 1224; Food security, 1225. NUTRITION, 1226.

In 2002, the United Nations continued to promote human health, coordinate food aid and food security and support research in nutrition.

At the end of 2002, about 42 million people were living with HIV/AIDS. During the year, an estimated 5 million people became infected, 800,000 of them children, and 3.1 million people died from AIDS. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) continued to coordinate UN activities for AIDS prevention and control, including monitoring the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted at the twenty-sixth (2001) special session of the General Assembly. In order to ensure the Declaration's full implementation, the UNAIDS secretariat and co-sponsors agreed to a series of actions in the key areas of advocacy, normative guidance and operations support, communications and public information, and civil society engagement. Efforts also continued towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established in January.

The Roll Back Malaria initiative, launched by the World Health Organization in 1998 with the goal of halving the world's malaria burden by 2010, was seeking to expand the use of interventions known to be effective and support work that would result in even more effective interventions in future. In support of the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, 2001-2010, the General Assembly set targets to be met by 2005 for the treatment and prevention of the disease.

The World Food Programme—a joint undertaking of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—assisted 72 million people, providing 3.7 million tons of food aid. As a follow-up to the 1996 World Food Summit, FAO convened the World Food Summit: five years later, which adopted a declaration calling on the international community to fulfil the pledge made at the 1996 Summit to halve the number of hungry to about 400 million by 2015. In December, the General Assembly declared 2004 the International Year of Rice.

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Chapter XIV (pp. 1228–1252)

International drug control

FOLLOW-UP TO THE TWENTIETH SPECIAL SESSION, 1228. CONVENTIONS, 1233: International Narcotics Control Board, 1234. WORLD DRUG SITUATION, 1236. UN ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE, 1244: UN International Drug Control Programme, 1244; Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 1247; Strengthening UN mechanisms, 1252.

During 2002, the United Nations, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), continued to strengthen international cooperation and increase efforts to counter the world drug problem. Drug control activities throughout the UN system focused mainly on implementation of the 1999 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which served as a guide for Member States in adopting strategies and programmes for reducing illicit drug demand in order to achieve significant results by 2008.

UNDCP's technical cooperation programmes supported Member States and the international community in implementing the strategy agreed upon by the General Assembly's special session on the world drug problem, held in 1998. States were assisted in complying with international drug control treaties, and national efforts and initiatives to reduce or eliminate illicit drugs, suppress drug trafficking and prevent drug abuse were supported. UNDCP encouraged donor nations and development institutions to support national efforts to reduce or eliminate illicit crops.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs—the main UN policy-making body dealing with drug control—adopted resolutions on such issues as reduction of demand for illicit drugs and prevention of drug abuse, illicit drug trafficking and supply, implementation of the international drug control treaties and strengthening UN machinery for international drug control. In July, the Economic and Social Council urged Governments to continue contributing to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific purposes. It requested UNDCP to assist States most affected by the transit of drugs, particularly developing countries.

INCB reviewed the impact of illicit drugs on economic development and continued to oversee the implementation of the three major international drug control conventions, to analyse the drug situation worldwide and to draw Governments' attention to weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance, making suggestions and recommendations for improvements at the national and international levels.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XV (pp. 1253–1262)

Statistics

WORK OF STATISTICAL COMMISSION, 1253: Economic statistics, 1254; Demographic and social statistics, 1256; Other statistical activities, 1257.

In 2002, the United Nations continued its statistical work programme, mainly through the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division. In March, the Commission approved actions by the Division to support population and housing censuses to be undertaken by countries between 2005 and 2014; emphasized that the revised Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting handbook should be published as soon as possible; endorsed the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair to establish a standing committee for statistical indicators with the Statistics Division as the secretariat; expressed appreciation for the improved quality of statistics in the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and welcomed the manual on government finance statistics published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Commission reviewed the work of groups of countries and international organizations in various areas of economic, social, demographic and environment statistics and made specific recommendations and suggestions.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter I (pp. 1263–1274)
International Court of Justice

Judicial work of the Court, 1263; Other questions, 1273.

In 2002, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered three Judgments, made 18 Orders and had 26 contentious cases pending before it.

On 29 October, the ICJ President informed the General Assembly that the Court's docket remained full and its activities sustained, and that the Court had again witnessed an increase in the number of cases on its General List. Measures taken to improve the Court's procedure to expedite the handling of cases had proved beneficial. The President called for easier access of the poorest States to the Court through the Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes, and appealed to all States able to do so to increase resources available to the Fund. He concluded that ICJ could make a substantial contribution to the maintenance of peace between nations.

Part Four: Legal questions

Chapter II (pp. 1275–1297)

International tribunals and court

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, 1275: The Chambers, 1275; Office of the Prosecutor, 1280; The Registry, 1281; Judicial status and referral of cases, 1281; Compensation, 1282; Financing, 1282. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA, 1284: The Chambers, 1285; Office of the Prosecutor, 1289; The Registry, 1290; Financing, 1290. FUNCTIONING OF THE TRIBUNALS, 1293: Expert Group recommendations, 1293; Cooperation of States, 1294; Composition of the Chambers, 1295; OIOS report, 1296.

In 2002, 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 (ICTY) focused on further expediting its judicial activities by implementing a number of judicial and organizational reforms. The Tribunal began to devise a strategy to complete first instance trials by 2008 and its work definitively around 2010. Six trials were held simultaneously during the year, the highest number held in a year since the Tribunal's establishment.

In August, the Security Council amended the statute of 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 (ICTR), establishing a pool of 18 ad litem judges in order to increase the Tribunal's judicial capacity.

In May, the Council amended the statutes of both Tribunals to address potential conflicts of nationality for the purposes of membership of the Chambers.

Part Four: Legal questions

Chapter III (pp. 1298–1315)

Legal aspects of international political relations

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, 1298. INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION, 1302: International liability, 1304; Unilateral acts of States, 1304; Responsibility of international organizations, 1304; Fragmentation of international law, 1304. INTERNATIONAL STATE RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1305: Jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, 1305; International terrorism, 1306; Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 1309; Safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, 1310. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 1312: Protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, 1312. TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS, 1314.

During 2002, the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court, created by the 1998 United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (ICC) to make arrangements for the coming into operation of the Court, completed its mandate with the holding of its ninth and tenth sessions. It transmitted to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court a report covering its work from 1999 to 2002 and containing its recommendations.

The Rome Statute of ICC entered into force on 1 July, following the deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General on 11 April. In September, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute held its first session, at which it adopted a number of instruments, resolutions and decisions.

The International Law Commission continued its examination of topics suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law, provisionally adopting a number of completed draft guidelines on reservations to treaties and draft articles on diplomatic protection.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the convention for the suppression of nuclear terrorism continued to elaborate a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to resolve outstanding issues related to the preparation of a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel held its first session in 2002 to review measures recommended by the Secretary-General to strengthen the protective legal regime for UN and associated personnel.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter IV (pp. 1316–1328)
Law of the Sea

UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, 1316; Institutions created by the Convention, 1321; Other developments related to the Convention, 1322; Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, 1328.

The United Nations continued in 2002 to promote universal acceptance of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its two implementing Agreements, on the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and on the privileges and immunities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The year marked the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention, to commemorate which the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, devoted two days of plenary meetings, on 9 and 10 December, to consideration of the item “Oceans and the law of the sea” and the theme “The Dynamism of the Convention: challenges for the present and solutions for the future”.

The three institutions created by the Convention—the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf—held sessions during the year.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter V (pp. 1329–1350)
Other legal questions

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1329: Strengthening the role of the United Nations, 1329; Cooperation with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, 1337; Host country relations, 1337. INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1339: International bioethics law, 1339. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, 1340; International trade law, 1340.

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization continued in 2002 to consider, among its other standing agenda items, proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in order to strengthen the Organization, and, as a priority, the implementation of Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII. The Special Committee completed its work on the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes between States, and the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the subject in November.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country continued to address complaints by permanent missions to the United Nations relating to the maintenance of conditions for the proper functioning of those missions. In that regard, the Assembly requested the United States, the host country, to consider removing travel controls imposed on certain missions and Secretariat staff of certain nationalities and to ensure the timely issuance of entry visas to Member States' representatives on official UN business.

The Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings began work on the elaboration of a mandate for negotiating an international convention, within the framework of a working group of the Sixth (Legal) Committee.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law completed and adopted the Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation and requested the Secretary-General to transmit it to Governments, dispute settlement institutions and other interested bodies. In November, the Assembly took note of the Model Law. It also enlarged the membership of the Commission from 36 to 60 and decided on the terms of office and distribution of seats of the additional 24 members.

In other action, the Assembly noted progress achieved in enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter I (pp. 1351–1366)

Strengthening and restricting of the United Nations system

PROGRAMME OF REFORM, 1351: General aspects, 1351; Agenda for change, 1352; Implementation of the Millennium Declaration, 1355; Managerial reform and oversight, 1357. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY, 1363.

The programme of reform of the Organization, initiated by the Secretary-General in 1997, was given renewed impetus in 2002, when the General Assembly, in December, adopted new reform measures proposed by the Secretary-General, the broad parameters of which had been set in 2000 by the United Nations Millennium Summit and subsequent world conferences. The latest reforms were intended to ensure that the UN programme of work was aligned with the Millennium Declaration's principles and priorities.

The Assembly conducted the first review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. It noted uneven progress in that regard and urged Member States to undertake measures towards its full implementation.

The Assembly, in considering the reform of its working procedures, decided to elect its President and Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of its Main Committees three months before the opening of a regular session, which was seen as a major step towards strengthening the Assembly by enabling smooth transitions between successive Presidencies and thus encouraging the President and other officers to play their role in a much more efficient manner. Efforts also continued to reach full agreement on increasing the membership of the Security Council within the Openended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council.

The Economic and Social Council, based on proposals submitted by the Secretary-General, adopted measures to meet new challenges that called for more flexible and responsive approaches in how it organized its work, particularly in the light of the objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration for its strengthening and to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter II (pp. 1367–1395)

United Nations financing and programming

FINANCIAL SITUATION, 1367. UN BUDGET, 1368: Simplifying the process, 1368; Results-based budgeting, 1368; Budget for 2000-2001, 1370; Budget for 2002-2003, 1372; Programme budget outline for 2004-2005, 1381. CONTRIBUTIONS, 1383: Assessments, 1383. ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING, 1388: Administrative and budgetary coordination, 1391. PROGRAMME PLANNING, 1391: Medium-term plan, 1391; Programme performance, 1392.

The overall financial situation of the United Nations during 2002 continued to show positive improvements, as reflected by higher aggregate cash balances, lower unpaid assessments and reduced debt owed by the Organization to Member States. Unpaid assessments were at their lowest in seven years at \$1,684 million, compared with \$2,106 million in 2001. Likewise, amounts due to Member States for troops and contingent-owned equipment were reduced to \$703 million from \$748 million at the end of 2001.

The General Assembly adopted revised budget appropriations for the 2002-2003 biennium of \$2,890,818,700, an upward adjustment of \$191,550,900 to the original appropriation of \$2,699,267,800. The Assembly also noted with concern the measures announced by the Secretary-General concerning budget constraints and support service reductions, especially of services provided to Member States. It invited the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed 2004-2005 programme budget on the basis of the preliminary estimate of \$2,876 million, revised at 2002-2003 rates, as indicated in his programme budget outline for the 2004-2005 biennium. The Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals for improving the planning and budget system.

The Committee on Contributions continued to review the methodology for preparing scales of assessments of Member States' contributions to the UN budget, including measures to encourage the timely payment of contributions, requests from Member States for exemptions under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and assessment of new Member States, and requests for change of assessments. It also considered the Secretary-General's proposals for encouraging the payment of arrears of assessed contributions and for resolving the issue of the outstanding assessed contributions of the former Yugoslavia. The Assembly endorsed the Committee's recommendations concerning multi-year payment plans for eliminating arrears.

The Assembly accepted the audited financial statements of the Board of Auditors on UN peacekeeping operations and the United Nations and its funds and programmes for the 2000-2001 biennium, adopted the proposed revisions to the UN Financial Regulations, to take effect from 1 January 2003, and adopted revisions to the 2002-2005 medium-term plan.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter III (pp. 1396–1425)

United Nations staff

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, 1396: International Civil Service Commission, 1396; Remuneration issues, 1398; Other remuneration issues, 1400. OTHER STAFF MATTERS, 1403: Personnel policies, 1403; UN Joint Staff Pension Fund, 1418; Travel-related matters, 1422; Administration of justice, 1423.

In 2002, the General Assembly, through the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), reviewed the conditions of service of staff of the UN common system and adopted ICSC recommendations relating to the level of the education grant, the base/floor salary scale and dependency allowances. The Assembly took note of progress made in the review of the pay and benefits system and welcomed efforts to strengthen performance and accountability in the common system. It continued to consider the proposed review and strengthening of ICSC within the context of ongoing initiatives for UN reform and endorsed the terms of reference of the panel established for that purpose.

The Secretary-General reported on: the conditions of service of ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Tribunal for Rwanda; human resources management reform; post structure and financing of Secretariat posts; staff composition and placement of staff serving in his Executive Office; use of gratis personnel, consultants, individual contractors and retirees; the status of women in the Secretariat; staff rules and regulations; staff safety and security; a framework for a new mechanism of accountability and responsibility; and adherence to regulations governing standards of accommodation for air travel of UN officials.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services evaluated the implementation of Assembly provisions on human resources management and possible discrimination due to nationality, race, sex, religion and language in recruitment, promotion and placement in the Organization, while the Joint Inspection Unit considered options for higher recourse within the context of the reform of the administration of justice in the UN system.

In continuing efforts to strengthen the safety and security of UN staff and associated humanitarian personnel, the Assembly emphasized the need to ensure that staff received adequate security training prior to deployment to the field, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of UN operations were properly informed about the conditions under which they were called upon to serve.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter IV (pp. 1426–1464)

Institutional and administrative matters

INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY, 1426: Admission to UN membership, 1426; General Assembly, 1427; Security Council, 1430; Economic and Social Council, 1431. COORDINATION, MONITORING AND COOPERATION, 1432: Institutional mechanisms, 1432; Other coordination matters, 1434. THE UN AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, 1437: Requests for conversion to UN specialized agency, 1437; Cooperation with organizations, 1438; Observer Status, 1444; Participation of organizations in UN work, 1445. CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 1447. UN INFORMATION SYSTEMS, 1454. OTHER MATTERS, 1456: Common services, 1456; UN premises and property, 1458; Security, 1460; Regulations, rights and duties, 1462.

In 2002, the United Nations continued to address administrative and institutional matters in order to ensure the efficient functioning of the Organization. The General Assembly opened its fiftyseventh session on 10 September. Earlier in the year, the Assembly resumed its fifty-sixth session, held its twenty-seventh special session and resumed its tenth emergency special session. It granted observer status to Partners in Population and Development, the Asian Development Bank, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Two States, the Swiss Confederation and TimorLeste, were admitted to United Nations membership, bringing the total number to 191.

During the year, the Security Council held 238 formal meetings to deal with regional conflicts, peacekeeping operations and a variety of other issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Assembly continued to consider the question of expanding the Council's membership.

The Economic and Social Council held its 2002 organizational session in New York in January and February and a resumed organizational session in April. It also held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization in April, its substantive session in July and resumed substantive session in October and December, all in New York.

The work of UN bodies concerned with administrative and coordination matters, including the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Joint Inspection Unit, was reviewed during the year. Work also continued on the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major UN conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Summit [YUN 2000, p. 47], and on conference indicators. The Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations NGO Informal Regional Network.

The Committee on Conferences examined requests for changes to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2002 and welcomed efforts to improve the utilization of conference services facilities. It also noted the Secretary-General's proposals for reforming the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services.

Other issues addressed by the Assembly during the year included measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations and strengthening the security and safety of UN premises. Progress was reported on the development of the capital master plan for the refurbishment of the UN complex and on the Organization's outsourcing practices.