

The Yearbook of the United Nations
Yearbook Express

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A UNIFIED
RESPONSE
TO GLOBAL
CHALLENGES



2006
Yearbook
of the
United Nations

Volume 60



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.

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

Following is the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization [A/61/1 & Corr.1], dated 10 August 2006, submitted to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. The Assembly took note of it on 2 October (decision 61/504).

Chapter I Introduction

1. In this, my tenth and last annual report, I have sought to provide an overview of the Organization's main achievements and challenges during the past 12 months in the light of the critical developments in the decade since I took office at the beginning of 1997. I have also subsumed in a single report both the work of the Organization as such and the progress made in implementing the Millennium Declaration, which in previous years has been the subject of a separate report.

2. The report is arranged under headings that readers will recognize as corresponding to the four main sections of the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit of September 2005, which in turn followed the structure of my "In larger freedom" report: development; peace and security; human rights, rule of law and humanitarian affairs; and strengthening the United Nations. To these I have added a fifth, "global constituencies", to cover an area that has not previously been classified as central to the Organization's work but has become increasingly important—and will, I believe, become even more so as the new century advances.

3. Over its lifetime the United Nations has changed from being principally a conference-servicing Organization to become a truly global service provider working on the ground in virtually every corner of the world to improve the lives of people who need help. This transformation has occurred in a dramatic way during the past decade. More than 70 per cent of our \$10 billion annual budget now relates to peacekeeping and other field operations, compared to about 50 per cent of a budget less than half that size 10 years ago. Over 50 per cent of our 30,000 civilian staff now serve in the

field. The number of humanitarian offices increased from 12 offices with 114 staff members in 1997 to 43 offices with 815 staff members in 2005. Human rights work at the country level has grown significantly; in 1996 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was present in 14 countries, and currently OHCHR-supported human rights personnel are deployed in over 40 countries. We have been called upon to support over 100 national elections. In addition, the Millennium Development Goals have become an operational template for use by Governments and peoples around the world to advance the well-being of all. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is leading the charge to combat existential threats such as HIV/AIDS by bringing together the efforts and resources of 10 United Nations system organizations to the global AIDS response, and the UNAIDS secretariat works on the ground in more than 75 countries.

4. If any one phenomenon can be said to have dominated the decade we have just lived through, it must surely be globalization. This term has been variously defined, but to me it conveys above all an era in which international relations are no longer almost exclusively about relations between nation-States, but also relations among people of different nationalities who interact with each other in a whole host of ways as individuals or as members of self-constituted groups across national boundaries, indeed across continents and oceans, often without needing to refer to the State at all. While the United Nations is constituted by Member States, these "non-State actors" on the international stage form new global constituencies with which the United Nations is increasingly called upon to interact.

5. The United Nations is having to learn how to work with global business and global civil society in all their manifold forms. The Organization must encourage partnerships with these vital actors to promote desirable changes and deliver growth, security and services, especially in the field.

6. But while nation-States are no longer the sole players in international relations, they are still the most important. And they face collective challenges that no single State can solve by itself.

7. Certainly, the State has not withered away or become redundant. On the contrary, the role of the State as regulator (though not administrator) of economic activity and mediator between different interest groups becomes all the more important as society becomes more complex. The more deadly weapons proliferate, the more essential is the State's monopoly on the means of coercion. To convince oneself of this, one has only to look at those unhappy countries where States are weak or are said to have failed. Many of them are countries that the United Nations knows all too well, since it is often where States are weak or have failed that we are summoned to assist.

8. That, too, is an important change. Our founders conceived of the Organization as working mainly to preserve the peace *between* States. They even forbade the Organization, in Article 2.7 of its Charter, a living document that remains vitally relevant today, to intervene "in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state", though with the sensible reservation that this principle should not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII when the Security Council takes action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace or acts of aggression.

9. In recent years the Council has made use of this reservation many times, because it has found that breaches of the peace and acts of aggression most often begin *within* States, yet swiftly develop into threats to the peace of a whole region, if not the whole world. Thus the United Nations comes increasingly to see the security of its Member States as inseparable from that of the populations who inhabit them and are represented by them. That is why the world's heads of State and Government felt it necessary, at last year's historic summit, to reaffirm that "each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity", and to affirm that the international community also has the responsibility to take timely and decisive action for this purpose, through the Security Council,

when peaceful means prove inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to do it.

10. States, in short, are the servants and instruments of human beings, and not the other way round. Once this fundamental principle is understood and accepted, it becomes easy to see why the three cardinal purposes of the Organization—development, security and human rights—are so indissolubly interconnected.

11. In order to develop and prosper, human beings must be able to look to the State for security and protection and be able to exercise their individual rights—not only civil and political but also economic, social and cultural—under the rule of law.

12. Likewise, human beings can feel truly secure only if they enjoy economic as well as political or military security and if they can be confident that their basic rights and human dignity will not be violated.

13. Human beings will enjoy meaningful human rights only if they can escape from grinding and degrading poverty and if they can rely on a strong and just State—one in which their views and interests are truly represented—to protect them from violence and crime.

14. In carrying out its mission on all three fronts, one of the Organization's greatest assets is its idealistic and courageous staff, many of whom serve in situations of hardship and danger. During the past decade United Nations personnel have been increasingly targeted in places of strife and conflict. Our mission to build a safer, better world for all people is no longer a guarantee of protection. The United Nations has suffered a real loss of innocence in recent years. Consequently, we have had to learn how best to advance our mission to help others without excessively endangering our own.

15. But our commitment must never change. The United Nations, founded in the name of "We the peoples", must be able to advance their interests effectively in all three areas—development, security and human rights. Indeed, my millennium report "We the peoples" and my 2005 report "In larger freedom" reflect my own vision of this global responsibility, which has underpinned my tenure as Secretary-General. This report shows how the Organization has sought to do so in the past year and in the light of the past 10 years. I believe there is much in it that we can be proud of. But I am also fully conscious of the alarming extent to which, on all three fronts, our capacities fall short of the challenges we face. That is why I am convinced that the task of strengthening the United Nations is no mere bookkeeping exercise, but an imperative that

directly concerns the interests of all Member States and should, much more than it appears to do at present, engage their urgent attention.

Chapter II Development

Internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals

To spare no effort: the millennium promise

16. In the Millennium Declaration of 2000 (General Assembly resolution 55/2), world leaders set forth a bold and inclusive new vision for humanity. Pledging to channel the fruits of globalization to benefit all people, leaders committed themselves “to spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty”. Since 2000, the United Nations, together with eminent voices from Government, civil society, business and science, has given spirit to this commitment in a manner that many would have deemed impossible only a few years ago. The result has been dramatically increased global attention for the full one sixth of humanity who still live in the most extreme form of poverty, measured as income of less than one dollar per day.

17. Such political momentum offers the opportunity to build on the world’s considerable recent development successes. As highlighted in the statistical annex to the present report, from 1990 to 2002, the developing world’s proportion of people living in extreme poverty dropped from 28 per cent to 19 per cent, driven mostly by gains in eastern and southern Asia. Average child mortality rates in developing countries fell from 95 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 79 in 2004. More than 1.2 billion people gained access to improved sanitation over the same period. From 1991 to 2004, average net primary enrolment ratios in developing regions increased from 79 per cent to 86 per cent.

18. But progress has been uneven and the ongoing levels of human deprivation remain staggering. Each year, more than 10 million children die before their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes. Women in the developing world are more than 45 times more likely, on average, to die during pregnancy and childbirth than women in the developed world. More than 800 million people remain chronically undernourished. Half the developing world still lacks access to sanitation, a fifth has no access to safe water, and slum populations are growing steadily. The environment on which livelihoods

depend is suffering degradation in all developing regions. The world missed the international goal for gender parity in education by 2005, and the epidemic of violence against women remains a scourge on humanity.

19. Prior to the Millennium Declaration, the foundations for tackling these challenges were consolidated through the major conferences and summits of the 1990s. At the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, world leaders committed themselves to a new global partnership to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Monterrey Consensus reasserted each country’s primary responsibility for its own economic and social development through sound governance and policies to fully mobilize domestic resources. These national efforts were to be supplemented by the commitment from developed countries to provide improved access to international markets, more and more effective, stable and predictable official development assistance and private capital flows and a better international architecture to prevent and manage financial crises. As an essential contribution to this process, developed countries also pledged to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance and to pursue innovative sources of financing for development. Increased national responsibility was also to be accompanied by a greater voice and greater representation for developing countries in international economic decision-making. In the same year, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, Member States focused on the implementation of sustainable development goals and added partnerships as a major new dimension to achieving those goals. The Summit reinforced the Millennium Development Goals by agreeing to specific, time-bound sustainable development targets, including particular targets for Africa.

20. In implementing this vision of global partnership, many developing and developed countries are leading by inspirational example. But many of them, despite their best efforts, simply remain too poor to make the investments needed to escape the trap of extreme poverty. It is these countries that require the most urgent international support if we are to fulfil the promises of the Millennium Declaration.

21. Recent global political debates have rightly shifted the emphasis from principles to practicalities. In January 2005, the Millennium Project presented to me its report entitled *Investing in Development: A*

Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals, stressing the need for practical measures and the feasibility of major success. I welcomed the analysis and the recommendations of the Millennium Project. In March of the same year, I submitted to the General Assembly my report entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”, which set out a strategic vision for collective action to achieve universal freedom from want, as well as freedom from fear and the realization of dignity for all. Both reports stressed that breakthrough action was required at all levels if implementation were to proceed at a scale commensurate with countries’ development needs. Other Secretariat reports, such as the *Report on the World Social Situation 2005* and the *World Economic and Social Survey 2006*, have focused on the growing inequalities that are emerging both within and among countries and that make it challenging, but all the more imperative, to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

2005—a year of commitments

22. As the first major checkpoint since the Millennium Summit, 2005 saw a number of important commitments to a global development agenda, culminating at the 2005 World Summit. All Member States emphasized the vital role played by the major United Nations conferences and summits in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives, and strongly reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goals as the shared, time-bound, integrated and measurable framework for development cooperation. For the United Nations system, it has been extremely encouraging to see the Goals gain political momentum with each passing year. Citizens around the world are rightfully calling upon their Governments to be ever bolder in following through on the Goals. As a result, international development efforts have regained ambition, fusing the possibility for success with a heightened sense of urgency.

23. At the 2005 World Summit (see General Assembly resolution 60/1), Member States agreed to a practical framework for decade-long action when they committed to embedding the global goals into the country-level processes where operational and budgetary decisions are made. In particular, Member States agreed to adopt, by the end of 2006, comprehensive national strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, supported by the global partnership for development agreed in Monterrey. Member States also committed to launching “quick-impact initia-

tives”, immediate steps that can save and improve millions of lives within the span of only a few years. These include actions to distribute anti-malaria bed nets, free of charge, to eliminate user fees in basic education and health and to expand school meal programmes using locally produced food.

24. World leaders further agreed to several other important targets at the 2005 World Summit. I am therefore recommending the incorporation of these commitments into the set of targets used to follow up on the Millennium Declaration. This includes: a new target under Millennium Development Goal 1: to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our relevant national and international policies and our national development strategies; a new target under Goal 5: to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015; a new target under Goal 6: to come as close as possible to universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS by 2010 for all those who need it; and a new target under Goal 7: to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010. The existing target on developing decent and productive work for youth, now under Millennium Development Goal 8, would be encompassed by the new target (under Goal 1). Technical work to select the appropriate indicators would be undertaken by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators. In this work, the system will be able to build on the Ministerial Declaration on Employment Generation and Decent Work adopted at the 2006 session of the Economic and Social Council, which calls for the development of 10-year action plans and assigns the Council a clear role in monitoring progress in its implementation.

25. As emphasized in Monterrey, commitments can be implemented only if backed by adequate international financing, another realm of significant breakthroughs in 2005. The Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative endorsed the cancellation of debts to the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for those countries that completed the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. Worth approximately \$50 billion in face value, this debt relief is projected to save qualifying countries more than \$1 billion per year in debt-servicing payments over the coming decade. This agreement marks unambiguous progress and highlights the need for relief for other deserving countries too.

26. Of much greater quantitative importance for development finance, 16 of 22 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee have now either met the official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income or set timetables for doing so by 2015. In May 2005, the 15 Development Assistance Committee members that are members of the European Union each agreed to meet a minimum target of 0.51 per cent of gross national income by 2010, en route to 0.7 per cent by 2015. Admirably, Member States that joined the European Union after 2002 set a development assistance target of 0.33 per cent of gross national income by 2015. The Group of Eight summit held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, built on this momentum with an agreement to augment total annual development assistance by \$50 billion by 2010, with half of the increase directed to Africa. An increasing number of donors are meeting the target to provide at least 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income to assist the least developed countries, and official development assistance to least developed countries has thus increased sharply in recent years. Innovative sources of financing have also been explored and various initiatives are being implemented.

2006—translating commitments into action

27. If history judges 2005 for its promises, then 2006 must be judged on implementation. Are we on course to look back, in 2015, and say that no effort was spared? So far the record is mixed. The words of 2005 have yet to have a direct impact on the lives of the poor people they are meant to help. Nor have they produced the implementation breakthroughs required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The challenges remain most pressing in Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, where the proportion of people living in extreme poverty is essentially unchanged since 1990 and the absolute number has increased dramatically.

28. There has been progress, however. For example, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative has followed a prompt timetable towards completion; international malaria control efforts are gathering speed, backed by increased donor assistance; momentum is under way to launch the African Green Revolution agreed upon at the 2005 World Summit; and recent global commitments have also prompted new notions of investment scale-up to tackle broader development priorities. To ensure that Member States can respond to their countries' development priorities, last year I personally wrote to all Heads of State and Government offering United Nations assistance and support. I am heartened to note that the United Nations country teams are currently

helping many countries to prepare and implement Millennium Development Goal-based national development strategies.

29. Putting the Millennium Development Goals into action, the United Nations has collaborated with Governments and other stakeholders to support so-called millennium villages throughout Africa. The project began with a single village in Sauri, Kenya, in August 2004 and has expanded to 12 sites in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Among other successes, the villages are transforming themselves from areas of chronic hunger, tripling their crop production in a short time. Using scientific technology and understanding the agro-ecological zones of the areas, villagers are now able to sell their produce in nearby markets.

30. Thanks to efforts by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and others, progress is being made to slow the spread of infectious diseases and provide assistance to those suffering from them. Aid is increasing throughout Africa and other areas to provide insecticide-treated mosquito nets, which can save as many as 20 per cent of children who would otherwise die from malaria. Policies regarding artemisinin-based combination therapy for malaria are now in place, helping to stem the burden of resistance to former malaria treatments and helping many to overcome the disease. A large campaign to eradicate polio over the past decade has nearly been completed, with only four polio-endemic countries left. It is suspected that transmission of the disease could be halted throughout the world by the end of 2006, with the possibility of the world being certified polio-free by the end of 2010.

31. From the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to ensure that policies to attain the Millennium Development Goals reach out to indigenous people to the likely conclusion of the first ever convention on protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities this year, progress towards policy implementation is evident. Another key issue from the 2005 World Summit—how to realize the great potential of migration to advance worldwide development—will be addressed at the forthcoming high-level dialogue in the General Assembly. This offers a unique opportunity for the Organization to move policies towards economic and social progress for migrants and their countries of origin and destination.

32. The Economic and Social Council has been called upon to play a critical role in the systematic follow-up and monitoring of progress of various

programmes. The annual ministerial reviews can become the major mechanism for strengthening accountability for international commitments to the Millennium Development Goals and the other agreed development goals. The Council's high-level development cooperation forum will provide a global platform where all will be able to discuss key policy issues that affect development cooperation in all its forms. I trust that the Council will rise to this major challenge.

33. In spite of these advances, progress remains much too incomplete. Most fundamentally, international financial commitments remain inadequate in terms of timing, volume and quality for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Many of the new promises will take years to materialize, so it is difficult for low-income countries to begin real investment scale-up. Aggregate official development assistance reached a record high of \$106 billion in 2005, up from \$69 billion in 2003, but only a small fraction of this nominal increase actually represented additional finance to support real ground-level investments in the countries that need them most. Even multilateral debt relief yields little immediate gain for qualifying countries, since benefits are backloaded and additional financing is still necessary to ensure that multilateral development banks are adequately resourced to finance scale-up programmes. It therefore remains as important as ever for developed countries without timetables for achieving the 0.7 per cent aid target to set them as soon as possible. Moreover, aid delivery mechanisms require dramatic improvement, building on the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

34. Another cause for concern is the suspension of negotiations of the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Round. Developing countries require greater market access and support for capacity development in order to develop the long-term competitiveness that sustains economic development. Following the Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong, China, in December 2005, which produced few areas of agreement and little momentum, the talks were stalled in July 2006. In the coming months, leadership will be required from all sides, particularly the developed countries, if negotiations are to be saved. It is also important that the Aid for Trade Initiative endorsed at Hong Kong be pursued.

35. The costs of delay and inaction are borne globally, not just locally. One need only consider the challenges posed by emerging diseases such as avian influenza to understand the shared and urgent global interest in supporting practical development

steps in all countries. We must recognize the nature of global trust at stake and the danger that many developing countries' hopes could be irredeemably pierced if even the greatest anti-poverty movement in history is insufficient to break from "business as usual". As we move towards implementation in 2006 and beyond, we still must spare no effort.

HIV/AIDS

36. In the 25 years since the first cases of AIDS were reported, AIDS has killed more than 25 million people, orphaned 15 million children and exacerbated hunger and poverty. It has become the leading cause of death among both men and women aged 15 to 59, and women now represent 50 per cent of people living with HIV worldwide. After a tragically late and slow start, the world's response has gathered strength. The adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS in June 2001 marked a watershed moment when the world recognized the challenge posed by AIDS and pledged to take action.

37. A great deal of progress has been achieved since then. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established in 2002 to provide low- and middle-income countries with additional financing. More domestic and international resources have been mobilized. The prices of some AIDS medicines have been greatly reduced and the "3 by 5 Initiative", launched by UNAIDS and WHO, has helped to generate a substantial increase in the number of people receiving antiretroviral treatment. Yet, the pace of the epidemic continues to outstrip current efforts. An estimated 38.6 million people worldwide were living with HIV in 2005. An estimated 4.1 million people became infected with HIV and an estimated 2.8 million lost their lives to AIDS. The global impact of AIDS has already been so devastating that the *Human Development Report 2005* of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concluded that the HIV/AIDS pandemic had inflicted the single greatest reversal in human development.

38. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, world leaders committed to a massive scaling up of HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all who need it. The impact is starting to be seen in some areas, with trends in national HIV prevalence showing recent declines in two sub-Saharan African countries, namely Kenya and Zimbabwe, in urban areas in Burkina Faso and Haiti, nationally in Cambodia and Thailand and in four states in India. More than 1.3 million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in low- and

middle-income countries by December 2005, and in sub-Saharan Africa the number of people receiving treatment increased more than eightfold (from 100,000 to 810,000) between 2003 and 2005 and more than doubled in 2005 alone. The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy in Asia increased almost threefold, to 180,000, in 2005.

39. In response to the request of the General Assembly contained in its resolution 60/224, UNAIDS and its co-sponsors helped to facilitate inclusive country-driven processes to develop practical strategies for moving towards universal access. The report entitled "Towards universal access: assessment by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS on scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support", provides a summary of these country-driven processes and contains practical recommendations on setting and supporting national priorities; ensuring predictable and sustainable financing; strengthening human resources and systems; removing the barriers to ensure affordable commodities; protecting the AIDS-related human rights of people living with HIV, women and children and people in vulnerable groups; and setting targets and accountability mechanisms.

40. The high-level meeting and review of progress on HIV/AIDS, which was held in New York from 31 May to 2 June 2006, provided world leaders with an opportunity to assess progress made in achieving the targets set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and to strengthen the global response against the epidemic. In the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: five years later, Member States: (a) committed to taking specific actions to scale up nationally driven, sustainable and comprehensive AIDS responses—including the full and active participation of civil society—towards the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010; (b) recognized the UNAIDS estimate that \$20 billion to \$23 billion would be required annually by 2010 to fund sufficiently scaled-up responses; (c) committed to setting up ambitious national targets and costed national plans; and (d) agreed to focus on the key drivers of the epidemic, in particular gender disparity, challenges for young people and stigma and discrimination.

41. The HIV/AIDS epidemic demands an exceptional response. Among the main challenges ahead are the need to work more closely and openly with populations most affected by HIV and AIDS, such as men who have sex with men, sex workers and injecting drug users, and moving from short-term emergency response to a longer-term response that recognizes the exceptionality of AIDS and is inte-

grated with national development planning and implementation. We need an ambitious and balanced strategy of both prevention and treatment and adequate urgent funding. A real difference can be made in a very short time.

The special needs of Africa

42. World leaders made an unprecedented commitment in the Millennium Declaration to recognize and provide for the special needs of Africa. The need for urgent and concerted action was compelling, as Africa continues to suffer more than its share of the hardships caused by violent conflict, poverty and disease.

43. It must be recognized, however, that encouraging developments have taken place in Africa during the past 10 years. The number of democratically elected national Governments in Africa has increased significantly, and economic growth in some African countries is relatively strong and sustained. There has been a marked resolve by African leaders to take control of the continent's destiny. The Organization of African Unity has been transformed into the African Union, which continues to strengthen its peacekeeping and mediation capacities and its peer-review mechanism, and implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is moving ahead.

44. Yet major challenges remain. Sub-Saharan Africa lags behind the rest of the developing world in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. About half of the world's armed conflicts, and the vast majority of United Nations peacekeepers, are in Africa. There is a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in many countries.

45. Providing support for the development of Africa has become a top priority of the United Nations. Regional actions and international initiatives have further strengthened impetus for progress in conflict resolution, economic growth, consolidation of democracy and implementation of NEPAD. With a recent agreement, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative has helped Nigeria to shift approximately \$1 billion a year from debt servicing to poverty-reduction programmes. Ghana and the Netherlands recently launched a partnership to support Ghana's nationwide school meals programme using locally produced food. Many African countries are preparing 10-year education plans, while Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania continue to show the benefits for primary-school enrolment of abolishing user fees for education. Earlier this year Zambia cancelled fees for basic rural health services and Burundi introduced free medical care for mothers and children.

46. The Africa Fertilizer Summit held in June 2006 in Abuja mapped out a common strategy for the continent to achieve food self-sufficiency and launch the rural economic transformation required to overcome extreme poverty. African leaders set targets for 2007 and 2008 en route to a 2015-based plan of action to help farmers move to higher-yielding land practices, with increased use of improved seeds, fertilizers and irrigation.

47. Meanwhile, the Millennium Project launched the Millennium Villages initiative, which aims to identify how recent global commitments can be translated to Government- and community-led development efforts to further the Millennium Development Goals. Ten countries so far are partnering with UNDP in the initiative.

48. The United Nations system offered further assistance in a wide range of areas. The independent panel of experts that I established two years ago has submitted its second report on the theme "From commitments to results: moving forward NEPAD implementation". The report includes a number of proposals for advancing the NEPAD agenda.

49. In 2005, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa released a report entitled "Resource flows to Africa: an update on statistical trends". The report found that while official development assistance remained the main external resource flow to Africa, remittances from Africans working abroad had overtaken foreign direct investment in the period 2000-2003. Consequently, public policy should aim to facilitate an increase in remittances, in particular by reducing the cost of transfers so as to achieve the key objective of greater resource flows to households in Africa.

50. Other contributions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa include a conference organized in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone on disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and stability in Africa in Freetown, in June 2005. It brought together African practitioners and their international partners to share experiences and ideas about ways to improve the design, operation and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes to better promote sustainable peace on the continent. A similar round table of experts was convened in Cairo in June 2006 on the theme "Natural resources and conflict in Africa: transforming a peace liability into a peace asset" in an effort to promote socially responsible and economically sound resource management in post-conflict countries in Africa.

51. In the years ahead, the United Nations must respond even better to Africa's needs and aspira-

tions. This is consistent with the Organization's ideals, and the people of Africa deserve nothing less.

Ensuring environmental sustainability

52. In 1992 the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to address pressing issues regarding environmental protection and socio-economic development. Over 100 world leaders signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, endorsed the Rio Declaration and adopted a strategic plan for preventing environmental degradation and achieving environmental sustainability in the twenty-first century, the so-called Agenda 21. The Commission on Sustainable Development was created to monitor and report on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements. Five years later, in 1997, the General Assembly met in special session in New York to reaffirm the Earth Summit compact and review the implementation of Agenda 21 by countries, international organizations and civil society.

53. During my tenure, I have seen a greater understanding among Governments that human security is also threatened by environmental degradation. The continuing increase in the number of ratifications of major multilateral environmental agreements shows the growing commitment of countries to address global environmental issues. Ensuring environmental sustainability is one of the main pillars of the global fight against poverty, and it is essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations has been active in seeking ways to improve and sustain the environment.

54. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which I launched in 2001 and a report on which was released in March 2005, highlighted the urgency of making more progress towards environmental sustainability. It found that 60 per cent of the world's ecosystems, such as drylands, forests, fisheries and even the air we breathe, are being degraded or used unsustainably. The United Nations system must continue to help countries to integrate environmental concerns effectively into national policy frameworks for development and poverty reduction. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is aimed at strengthening the capacity of Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve their environmental goals and targets, as well as the environment-related development goals agreed internationally, thus enhancing the environmental sustainability of their countries' develop-

ment. UNEP, UNDP and their relevant partners are intensifying their activities as envisaged in the Bali Strategic Plan.

55. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders decided on a number of measures aimed at protecting our common environment, including a call for a more coherent institutional framework to address the environmental challenges of today. While the General Assembly has started its consideration of these matters, I have established the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence that will present its proposals on how to ensure and enhance coordination of United Nations activities in the areas of development, humanitarian affairs and the environment. In the meantime, UNEP and UNDP, two of the main implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, have integrated their respective poverty and environmental projects into the Poverty and Environment Initiative, which was announced at the "Environment for the Millennium Development Goals" high-level event during the Summit in September.

56. Action on climate change is particularly urgent, and implementing a global response to it is a priority of the United Nations. The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in February 2005 represented a historic moment in the international response to climate change. Yet this is just one step. There is a need to build a stronger international consensus for setting goals beyond the first Kyoto commitment period of 2008-2012. As at July 2006, 164 countries had ratified the Protocol, representing over 60 per cent of emissions from industrial countries. The wider United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remains the multilateral framework for action.

57. A major challenge for all countries in the years ahead is the development of new and sustainable energy sources. Governments, businesses and communities around the world have an important role to play in this endeavour and in the broader effort, in the words of the Millennium Declaration, to free all of humanity from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoiled by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for human needs.

Chapter III

Peace and security

Conflict prevention and peacemaking

58. The United Nations was founded on a commitment to prevent war and to strengthen means for conflict resolution. The Millennium Declaration

reaffirmed that preventing deadly conflicts and protecting people from violence is a priority of the Organization. We continue to be reminded of the importance of peacemaking and attempting to prevent conflict before it develops. Early action to address the root causes of potentially violent conflict, as well as diplomatic initiatives to bring parties together to bridge their differences, are less costly than waiting until conflicts erupt or run their destructive course.

59. During the past decade, the Organization has begun taking prevention more seriously. Efforts to live up to the Charter and the Millennium Declaration have brought improvements around the world. In Africa, the United Nations has been instrumental in peacemaking, as well as in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Angola, Mozambique, Cameroon, Nigeria and elsewhere. In Europe, United Nations-mediated final status talks on Kosovo are under way, and in Cyprus United Nations efforts have been aimed at encouraging a resumption of negotiations for a comprehensive settlement. In Asia, the United Nations has been lending support to reconciliation efforts in Iraq and peace processes in Nepal. In Central Asia I initiated the establishment of a regional United Nations centre for preventive diplomacy, an initiative that enjoys the support of five countries in the region. In the Americas, the General Assembly discontinued its annual review of Central America in 2005, marking the end of over 20 years of successful United Nations peacemaking efforts in the region. Meanwhile, conflict-prevention activities are under way in the Andean region and in Guyana. In countless other cases, through development programming, good offices and other means, United Nations officials shore up fragile situations and help national counterparts to avoid the scourge of war.

60. The Organization has seen institutional progress in peacemaking over the past decade. I warmly welcomed the decisions of the 2005 World Summit with respect to conflict prevention and mediation and can report several steps towards implementation of those decisions. A dedicated mediation support capacity is being established within the Department of Political Affairs, which will serve as a repository of lessons and experiences and will offer more systematic support to United Nations mediators and to mediation partners outside of the United Nations. There has also been important normative, political and institutional progress in the area of conflict prevention. Unfortunately, however, we still have a long way to go to ensure that effective preventive action is taken when the opportunity arises. At the systemic, structural and operational

levels, more understanding, resources, cooperation and will are needed to make armed conflict less viable and less likely.

Peacekeeping

61. Over the past decade, we have been reminded that United Nations peacekeeping plays a crucial role in securing States and individual political freedoms. Missions such as those in Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Balkans have been central to my tenure. When I became Secretary-General, the United Nations had fewer than 13,000 troops deployed worldwide and was recovering from the setbacks of the early 1990s. Today 65,500 troops and military observers, 7,500 police and more than 15,000 international and local civilian personnel serve in 15 peacekeeping operations and 3 special political or peacebuilding missions, in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste. The annual budget for United Nations peacekeeping has increased from approximately \$1 billion in 1997 to approximately \$5 billion today—totaling 0.5 per cent of global military spending. In 1997 military and police personnel were drawn from about 70 countries versus over 100 countries currently. In 1998 4 out of the top 10 contributors of troops were developing countries, whereas today all 10 are developing countries.

62. The past year has witnessed the successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Sierra Leone and support for the organization of fair and largely calm elections from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Burundi and Haiti. In the particularly challenging environments of Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, peacekeeping operations have facilitated complex transitional political processes.

63. But the year has also brought harsh reminders that the risk of failure is high. We withdrew our peacekeepers from Sierra Leone in December 2005. However, while we pulled our last soldiers from Timor-Leste in May 2005, within just one year an international force had returned to the country as it slipped back towards violence. Meanwhile, progress in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was tempered by violent incidents in the eastern part of the country, which highlighted the challenging and often hostile environment in which our peacekeeping operations take place.

64. The transformation of United Nations peacekeeping is not only numerical. Our traditional role of monitoring ceasefires remains very important, but we have become deeply engaged in facilitating political processes to give countries and territories emerging from conflict the opportunity for legiti-

mate Government. This has been particularly important in, for example, Kosovo, where the United Nations has served as the interim administration and is now leading the political process to determine Kosovo's future status. In addition, in 2005 alone, over 50 million registered voters had the chance to participate in elections and referendums overseen by United Nations peacekeeping missions. Because we recognize that voting alone does not bring stable politics, we are increasingly engaged in helping Governments to reform their security sectors and in providing social services to all. In Liberia and Haiti, our missions are also paying particular attention to the way in which State services are provided and, together with partners, assisting national authorities to enhance the accountability of Government finances.

65. Building these capacities requires significant resources. Over the past year I have been grateful to the Security Council for strengthening the mandates of our missions in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti and for permitting the transfer of personnel from Liberia to Côte d'Ivoire and from Burundi to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I recall my earlier statements that fulfilling complex mandates requires the highest-calibre civilian staff, drawn from across the United Nations system, other multilateral organizations and Member States. This year, we made important progress in approving and staffing the initial operating capability for a standing police capacity. We must continue to work to get the best professionals, civilian and uniformed, in the field on the shortest possible notice.

66. But building peace takes not only strong personnel but time. Observing the setback in Timor-Leste, we have been reminded that, while the concerns of the Organization's financial and personnel contributors must always be taken into account, it is important that the international community does not withdraw too hastily from conflict-scarred countries. I am hopeful that the new Peacebuilding Commission, which has, with the support of the two Governments, identified Burundi and Sierra Leone for attention, will play an important role in coordinating the rebuilding of post-conflict societies.

67. We also need strong partners. This year we have continued to develop our relationships with other international organizations. I welcome the European Union's decision to provide a standby force to support the United Nations Operation in the Congo during national elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and am grateful to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union

and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for their continued collaboration in ensuring stability and political progress in Kosovo. Meanwhile, the United Nations has made marked progress in cooperating with the African Union, as demonstrated by the joint United Nations-African Union assessment mission to Darfur, Sudan, in June. This allowed the two organizations to develop a consolidated plan for strengthening the current African Union Mission in the Sudan and to provide recommendations for the transfer from that mission to a United Nations peacekeeping operation in the region.

68. Yet we must also recognize that, in spite of this cooperation and considerable effort by the international community, the Government of the Sudan has yet to approve a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Darfur. Alongside the constraints placed on the operations of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea by the Government of Eritrea and the request of the Government of Burundi that the United Nations Operation in Burundi withdraw, this is a potent reminder that we can build peace and stability only where there is sustained local political support and raises very hard questions about why we sometimes fail to win that support from parties when we need it most. The answers are primarily political. The parties to a conflict may not always perceive an effective peacekeeping operation as being in their interest. There are also often misperceptions about the agenda of our peacekeeping operations. However, once the parties have recognized that United Nations peacekeeping has no other goal than that of promoting international peace and security, we must ensure that our peacekeepers meet the highest standards and that the necessary resources are made available.

69. We have recognized that we sometimes lose local support because of our operational failings, most obviously in the case of sexual exploitation and abuse, which we have worked hard to eradicate in recent years. We also accept that we lose credibility when we lack the full range of resources necessary to address multiple challenges, such as localized violence by politically motivated spoilers and organized crime. Too often, our stature is eroded by disenchantment with the often slow processes of development or institution-building. Our own morale also suffers badly in these circumstances.

70. But we must understand above all that the deployment of peacekeepers, under direct United Nations command or otherwise, will bring real peace only where the international community maintains close involvement in finding political solutions with local actors and in creating conditions

for effective reconstruction and development. At a time when our peacekeeping forces are so overextended, and often taking significant risks, it must be remembered that their presence can ease dialogue and succeed only where there is political will, and cannot act as an easy long-term alternative to it.

71. As we approach the end of my term of office and as we continue to search for a settlement to the great crises of our time, such as those in the Middle East and the Sudan, it is crucial that we continue to muster the political will that can translate our investment of financial and human resources into peace.

Peacebuilding

72. In the course of the past decade, ever more focus at the United Nations has been devoted to post-conflict peacebuilding—that is, in the aftermath of conflict, the restoration of State authority, the revitalization of State-society relations and of civil society and the reconstruction of the institutional foundations of economic and social development.

73. The track record of peacebuilding efforts is decidedly mixed. By some counts between a third and half of those countries that emerge from war relapse into it within five years. This phenomenon was illustrated in recent years by the relapse into violence in Haiti and a resurgence of tension in Timor-Leste, in both cases requiring the return of international peacekeepers. In these and similar cases, too little had been done to re-establish the institutional and economic conditions that can sustain political competition within a framework of constitutional order and law.

74. That peacebuilding often fails is not a source of surprise. The political fractures, social and economic inequalities, resource scarcities and other tensions that generate conflict are exacerbated, not diminished, by war. The mere fact of the signing of a peace agreement does not signify an end to these sources of conflict; peace agreements are at best merely a long-term road map for overcoming them. Implementation of those agreements and the wider process of restoring political and economic relationships is the harder part of the battle.

75. A source of surprise, no; but a source of deep concern, certainly. For not only does relapse into war squander national and international investments in peacemaking and recovery, the fighting that occurs after the collapse of a peace agreement is sometimes far more deadly than in earlier rounds, as parties' belief in the prospects of reconciliation is shattered, the possibility of power-sharing seems more remote, and thus a winner-take-all mentality

pervades. In such circumstances parties often commit to total war and the mass killing it can entail.

76. Parties themselves are often conscious of this risk, and thus sometimes take the necessary tough decisions to forge the necessary political compromises, build the necessary institutional restraints and make the necessary sacrifices to restore the populations' faith in the prospects of recovery and lead people away from war. Where peacebuilding succeeds it is always the leadership of domestic actors that is the essential ingredient of success. No amount of international engagement can substitute for domestic political leaders shouldering their responsibilities and leading their people towards peace and development.

77. Domestic leadership is the essential condition of peacebuilding, but it is rarely a sufficient condition. Rather, substantial international support has often made a crucial difference. Indeed, notwithstanding important failures, the fact is that over the past decade international assistance for the implementation of peace agreements and for wider peacebuilding processes has made a critical contribution to an overall decline in the level of civil war in the world—an achievement of historic significance.

78. And when peacebuilding efforts have succeeded—as they have in El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique, Cambodia, Rwanda and Eastern Slavonia and show every sign of doing in Burundi, Sierra Leone and Liberia—they show the United Nations system at its best and in all of its facets.

79. The United Nations is first and foremost, of course, a membership organization. And peacebuilding highlights this not only because of the irreducible role of national leadership, but also in that the major contributors to peacebuilding efforts are Member States—both regional Governments that can vitally help to stabilize emergent national authorities and donor Governments that provide the bulk of financial resources to the reconstruction process and an additional layer of political support.

80. The United Nations is also a network of capacities. Some of these, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and UNDP, play central roles in economic and institutional reconstruction, while others, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), OHCHR, the World Food Programme and UNICEF play vital roles in humanitarian and social recovery.

81. The United Nations is also a source of operational capacity. The deployment of such capacities—particularly in the form of peacekeeping operations,

which are now routinely structured to integrate within them all of the various aspects of United Nations operational engagement—has proved vital to helping parties overcome their divisions, provide a secure space within which they can resolve tensions and serve as a channel for resources for the rehabilitation of State and social infrastructure.

82. Bringing all of these roles together has been a major challenge in the past decade. But it is precisely this role that the Peacebuilding Commission was established to play. By creating a forum that links the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council; by bringing a wider range of States, especially regional actors and the major financial and troop contributors, into the deliberations of the Security Council; by creating a body with an interest in long-term, sustained engagement beyond the normal period of a peacekeeping operation; by creating a forum in which the United Nations system as a whole, including the international financial institutions, can meet with a core set of the most engaged Member States; and, most importantly, by creating a platform for national authorities to set out their own vision and their own priorities for reconstruction—in all of these ways, the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission holds the promise of more effective, more reliable peacebuilding results.

83. The Peacebuilding Commission has been slow to start and has yet to show its full promise. But good things take time, and we should not be discouraged by the fact that this new body is still trying to find effective ways of working. The creation of a Peacebuilding Support Office and the establishment of a Peacebuilding Fund will add critical tools to its repertoire. Over the next decade, I anticipate that the Peacebuilding Commission will be at the core of the work of the United Nations and the international community in peacebuilding—rightly recognized by the 2005 World Summit as a vital role for the Organization.

Combating terrorism

84. The threat of terrorism to international peace, security and development has taken on new importance during the past 10 years. Consequently, the international community has taken a number of important steps to provide a solid legal basis for common actions against terrorism, including the adoption of 13 universal instruments and their protocols and amendments, the latest of which—the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism—was opened for signature during the World Summit in September 2005. In the Millennium Declaration world leaders resolved

to take concerted action against international terrorism. At the World Summit they strongly condemned, for the first time, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. I trust that the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism will be forthcoming.

85. United Nations counter-terrorism activities have expanded dramatically in order to address the growing challenge of terrorism. The milestone Security Council resolutions, 1267(1999), 1373(2001), 1540(2004) and 1624(2005), and expert groups that support the three counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies have made States more responsible for taking practical steps to prevent terrorist financing, travel and access to weapons of mass destruction, as well as the incitement of terrorism. A remarkably wide array of organizations, departments and agencies in the United Nations system, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, WHO and many others, are actively involved in different aspects of preventing and combating terrorism.

86. However, the increasing demand by Member States for technical assistance in implementing universal instruments and the corresponding need for coordination among the growing number of United Nations entities involved in countering terrorism have demonstrated the need for a comprehensive, coherent and consistent counter-terrorism strategy.

87. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders welcomed my identification of the five elements of a counter-terrorism strategy that I set out in Madrid in March 2005 and agreed to develop them further to fashion a strategy that makes the international community stronger and terrorists weaker. In addition, they requested that I submit proposals to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism and to enhance the coordination of United Nations activities in this regard.

88. In April 2006 I submitted my report entitled "Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy". My proposals stem from the fundamental conviction that no cause, no matter how just, can excuse terrorism. These proposals are focused around five main elements: dissuading groups from resorting to terrorism or supporting it; denying terrorists the means to carry out an attack; deterring States from sup-

porting terrorist groups; developing State capacity to prevent terrorism; and defending human rights in the context of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

89. Throughout the report I have highlighted operational actions to enable Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector—all using their comparative advantages—to work together to counter terrorism while respecting the rule of law and human rights. Over the years, the international community has come to realize that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing ones. The importance of a culture of peace and the fact that terrorism does not emanate from any particular region, ideology or religion—nor is it directed only at certain groups of countries or people—have also become increasingly clear. In this regard, efforts to promote a dialogue among civilizations serve an increasingly useful purpose.

90. I am confident that the United Nations system has vital contributions to make in many aspects of counter-terrorism—from promoting the rule of law and effective criminal justice systems to ensuring that countries have the means to counter the financing of terrorism to strengthening capacity to prevent terrorists from acquiring nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological materials. Biological terrorism in particular poses a formidable challenge and acutely requires new thinking on the part of the international community. For this reason I proposed in my report the need for a multi-stakeholder dialogue in order to ensure that advances in biotechnology are not used for nefarious purposes. We must also never forget that victims are the true face of terrorism: protecting their rights, ensuring that their voices are heard and providing assistance to facilitate their reintegration are of utmost importance. While the primary responsibility for this lies with individual States, the relevant United Nations entities can help.

91. To achieve these goals, I am taking steps to institutionalize the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force that I created one year ago, which brings together 23 United Nations system entities that address different aspects of terrorism, to ensure overall coordination and coherence in United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. I am also establishing a focal point in the Secretariat to help coordinate a civil society campaign to counter terrorism, and I have suggested the creation of an informal group of United Nations technical assistance providers, donors and recipients to exchange information and coordinate efforts.

92. I am pleased that the General Assembly has used my recommendations to foster discussions on a global counter-terrorism strategy. The adoption of such a strategy will enhance operational measures to counter terrorism and will mark a historic step, bringing together all 192 Member States to demonstrate their resolve—and ability—to defeat this scourge. I trust that agreement on a strategy will be forthcoming without delay. All States—large or small, strong or weak—are vulnerable to terrorism and its consequences. They all stand to benefit from a strategy to counter it.

Disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

93. The elimination of weapons “adaptable to mass destruction” has been on the United Nations agenda since 1946. Over the past decade, we have witnessed at first rising and then diminishing expectations concerning weapons of mass destruction. In 1995, parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons agreed to extend the treaty indefinitely. A year later, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was signed. In 2000 the Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty adopted new political commitments to advance the treaty’s aims. In 2005 Member States had two opportunities to strengthen the foundations of the treaty, first at the Review Conference in May and then at the World Summit in September. On both occasions, failure to reach consensus on non-proliferation and disarmament sent a terrible signal of a growing international rift on what is potentially the most dangerous threat to international peace and prosperity. At the same time, the world has made remarkable progress in forging a global taboo against chemical weapons. Since its entry into force in 1997, membership in the Chemical Weapons Convention has grown to 178. The treaty is the first to provide for a robust international system to verify the destruction of an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. Since 1995, membership in the Biological Weapons Convention has grown to 155 with the addition of 21 parties. However, concerns persist over the lack of means to verify compliance and the need to expand membership even further.

94. Today the United Nations continues to play an active and influential role in efforts to stem the proliferation of lethal weaponry. In several major speeches this year, I have drawn attention to my overriding concern that the international community is presently facing two very divergent courses. One path, that of active engagement by all Member States, can take us to a world in which the prolifera-

tion of nuclear weapons is restricted and reversed through trust, dialogue and negotiated agreement. The other more dangerous course could lead to a world of fearful instability where such weapons are the currency of international relations and in which non-State actors acquire the means to carry out terrorism with potentially catastrophic consequences.

95. If ever there was a time to break the deadlock in multilateral negotiations and bring disarmament back into the limelight of the international agenda, I believe that it is now. At such a moment, we should remember what the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has achieved. With near-universal membership, it has entrenched a norm against nuclear proliferation. The success of the treaty, the global support it enjoys and its resilience too often pass unacknowledged.

96. I have also drawn attention to the need to resolve two specific issues of concern. The continuing impasse on the Korean peninsula is especially disappointing given the agreement reached in September 2005 in the Six-Party Talks, which included a set of principles for a verifiable denuclearization of the peninsula. The Islamic Republic of Iran, for its part, needs to enable IAEA to assure the world that its nuclear activities are exclusively peaceful in nature. In both cases, there is a need for solutions that are not only peaceful, but that buttress the integrity of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

97. While there has been some progress towards disarmament, nuclear weapons worldwide still number in the thousands, many of them on hair-trigger alert. Moreover, new missile testing in 2006 underscores the absence of a multilateral instrument regulating missiles. If we want to avoid a cascade of nuclear proliferation, then there must be a more concerted international effort to build a common understanding of the most immediate nuclear threats. The debate between those who insist on disarmament before taking further non-proliferation measures and those who argue the opposite is in my view self-defeating. Both are essential for security.

98. During a visit to Geneva in June 2006, I was heartened by the fact that the Conference on Disarmament appeared much readier than it has been in recent years to move forward on a programme of work. For the first time in a decade, the Conference is working to an agreed schedule, with particular efforts to reflect the security concerns of all States. In Geneva, I acknowledged the importance of proposals from China and the Russian Federation on preventing the weaponization of outer space and called attention to the elements of a ground-breaking instrument for halting the pro-

duction of fissile materials for weapons purposes proposed by the United States of America. I hope that these steps represent the beginnings of a new period of productivity.

99. IAEA continues its outstanding work of verifying and assuring compliance with the practical aspects of implementing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Director General, Mohamed El Baradei, on behalf of the Agency was further evidence of the indispensable role that he and the Organization currently play.

100. I am also pleased to report that in April 2006 the Security Council renewed its resolution 1540(2004), requiring all Member States to enact and enforce effective national legal and regulatory measures, inter alia to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

101. In my April 2006 report "Uniting against terrorism", I emphasized the likely devastating impact of a nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological terrorist attack. In that report I suggested that bioterrorism—the misuse of biological agents and toxins by non-State actors—was one of the most important under-addressed threats relating to peace and security. I therefore proposed a forum that would bring together key biotechnology stakeholders to provide momentum for a global initiative to minimize the dangers of misuse of biotechnology.

102. The proliferation of small arms continues to pose a serious threat to peace and security in many regions of the world. These weapons may be small, but they cause massive destruction. In 2001 Member States made a commitment to urgently address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. I am encouraged by the General Assembly's adoption in December 2005 of an international tracing instrument to identify and trace illicit small arms. However, I am disappointed that the 2006 United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms ended without agreement on further measures. Still, it did succeed in drawing the issue to the attention of the international community, which clearly remains committed to the Programme of Action as the main framework for measures to curtail the illegal trade in those weapons.

103. The various challenges we presently face have never been greater, more varied or, in many respects, more dangerous. They will demand a shared level of commitment, innovative thinking and practical action on the part of all Member States if we are to prove ourselves equal to the challenge. My vision for the United Nations of the twenty-first century is one in which we are increasingly deter-

mined to move forward on three fronts—security, development and human rights—simultaneously. These issues are all inextricably linked precisely because they depend upon and reinforce one another. We cannot afford to fail.

Chapter IV

Human rights, rule of law and humanitarian affairs

Rule of law

104. The United Nations was established in the aftermath of a terrible war to ensure that relations among nations would be grounded in international law, including human rights and the dignity of the human person. "Rule of law" is the core concept at the heart of the Organization's work and mission. Those principles apply at the international level as well as within States. Indeed, the Millennium Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of all nations to the rule of law as the all-important framework for advancing human security and prosperity.

105. At the international level, the most striking development over the past decade has occurred in the area of international criminal justice. The International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda established by the Security Council in 1993 and 1994 respectively marked the first generation of tribunals since the International Military Tribunal established in Nuremberg. They demonstrated the collective will not to allow grave violations of international law to go unpunished. It will be important to continue to ensure that the two tribunals work effectively and efficiently to complete their work. I encourage Member States to cooperate fully with them and to surrender indictees to them upon request.

106. One of the greatest and possibly most lasting achievements of the tribunals was to make the vigorous prosecution of such crimes an accepted practice. Indeed, those groundbreaking efforts contributed to the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Extraordinary Chambers in the courts of Cambodia. In the development of the new tribunals, the Organization applied important lessons learned from the experiences of the first two. Both of the second-generation tribunals, unlike their predecessors, provide for the participation of national judges and prosecutors and the application of national as well as international law.

107. As 2005 came to a close, the Security Council, in its resolution 1644(2005), requested me to begin a process aimed at the establishment of a

tribunal of an international character for Lebanon as a result of the bombing on 14 February 2005 that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and other persons. As we move towards the establishment of this tribunal, the Secretariat will ensure that it applies the highest standards of international justice as it carries out its work. In addition, in Burundi, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1606(2005), the Secretariat is undertaking an approach that combines judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms through discussions with the Burundian authorities regarding the legal framework for both a truth and reconciliation commission and a tribunal. In these efforts, the Secretariat will seek to build on the lessons learned from the previous tribunals.

108. The establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002 was the realization of a long effort to end impunity and undertake through the rule of law that those who commit the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes will no longer be beyond the reach of justice. This important step demonstrated the international community's commitment to a permanent and universal mechanism to ensure that as regards those most serious of crimes, impunity will not be tolerated. One hundred Member States have become parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Importantly, the Statute provides for action by national legal authorities before the exercise of international jurisdiction. Since 2004, the Court has opened investigations into situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Darfur, the latter being referred to the Court by the Security Council. One suspect alleged to have committed war crimes, a Congolese national, was arrested and transferred to the Court in March 2006. In October 2005, the Court's pre-trial chamber unsealed arrest warrants for five senior leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Uganda since July 2002. Extending the participation of Member States in the International Criminal Court will be a further challenge in the area of international justice.

109. Justice, especially transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, is a fundamental building block of peace. In the face of pressures to the contrary, the international community should ensure that justice and peace are considered to be complementary requirements. Indeed, we must never choose between justice and peace, even if it is not possible to pursue both goals in parallel. This is particularly important because it remains our firm

position that there should be no amnesty for international crimes.

110. As I pointed out in my report of 23 August 2004 to the Security Council on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, the rule of law, in this context, refers to a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. Many parts of the United Nations system work to varying extents on expanding the rule of law, including transitional justice. We have tried, at least in the area of peacebuilding, to ensure coherence and effectiveness in our efforts. As a result, I am encouraged by the recent establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, which will assist States to ensure that in troubled areas of the world the rule of law is upheld.

111. The rule of law should also apply in the work of the organs of the United Nations. I am pleased that the Security Council has recently renewed its commitment to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists, for removing them and for granting humanitarian exceptions.

112. In 2004 I spoke to the General Assembly about the need to restore and extend the rule of law throughout the world. I characterized it as a framework in which rather than might making right, right would make might. I warned that the rule of law was at risk around the world, with laws being disregarded in too many quarters. The United Nations as a collective, and each of its Member States individually, must commit to ensuring that at all levels and in all situations we adhere to and promote those legal principles that constitute our Organization's foundation.

Human rights

113. Over the past decade, we have seen a significant and welcome elevation of the importance of human rights in the work of the Organization. The Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirmed the basic premise that human rights formed a central pillar and were the shared responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole.

114. Mainstreaming all human rights, including the right to development, has been central to the series of United Nations reform efforts I have initiated since 1997. It has been an important focus of the work of OHCHR in strengthening the linkages between the normative and operational work of the United Nations system. Progress has been made in

this regard across the system in many areas. Building on this progress, I argued in my 2002 and 2005 reports on United Nations reform that more focused attention was needed to support Member States in their efforts to build stronger national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights. The 2005 World Summit gave unprecedented political backing to strengthening the capacity of the High Commissioner and her office to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights into national policies.

115. At the World Summit, Member States accepted my suggestion that, in order to establish human rights at its proper level within the system, they should create a Human Rights Council, directly elected by the General Assembly, to work alongside the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. In March 2006 the General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing the Council to replace the Commission on Human Rights. One of the features of the Council is that it will review, on a periodic basis, the fulfilment of the human rights obligations of all countries through a universal periodic review mechanism. On 9 May 2006, the 47 members of the Council were elected, and they committed to fully cooperating with the Council and to upholding the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights. Together with many other dignitaries, I addressed the opening of the first session on 19 June 2006. Among the important actions taken, the Council adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also decided to establish two intersessional open-ended intergovernmental working groups: one to develop the modalities of the universal periodic review mechanism and the other to formulate concrete recommendations on the issue of reviewing and, where necessary, improving and rationalizing all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities in order to maintain a system of special procedures, expert advice and a complaint procedure.

116. The 2005 World Summit Outcome represented a clear and unambiguous acceptance by all Governments of the collective international responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. For the first time ever, Member States expressed a willingness to take timely and decisive collective action for that purpose, through the Security Council, when peaceful means prove inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to do it. The decision represents a renewal of

the United Nations promise of “never again”, but we must match our rhetoric with a real willingness to take action.

117. Following my report “In larger freedom”, the High Commissioner for Human Rights released her plan of action (May 2005), presenting an overall vision for the future direction of OHCHR. In early 2006, she launched her first biennial strategic management plan, which articulates how OHCHR aims to implement the vision in the plan of action and provides a comprehensive overview of the areas of work on which OHCHR will focus and the resources that will be required. In the autumn of 2005, the General Assembly supported the implementation of the new plan by resolving to double the regular budget of the Office over five years. In the biennium 2006-2007, this means an additional 91 posts and a further \$20 million in available funding.

118. The plan of action calls for attention to be paid to a range of implementation gaps on the ground and points to the need for concerted action by OHCHR and the United Nations system to work with countries to close those gaps for the effective protection and realization of human rights. The “action 2 programme” I established as a follow-up to my 2002 report “Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change”, is led by OHCHR with participation by the United Nations Development Group and Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs agencies. As country-level implementation of action 2 intensifies, increased attention will be needed to direct the wider efforts of the United Nations system at the country level to ensure that they effectively contribute to greater development of national capacity for more effective and sustainable protection of human rights.

119. The treaty bodies made progress in harmonizing their working methods and considering means to assist States parties to fulfil their substantive commitments and meet their reporting obligations. Guidelines for a common core document now exist and are available for States parties to use. In March 2006, the High Commissioner prepared a concept paper that elaborated on the proposal in the plan of action for a unified standing treaty body. It provides a basis on which options for reform could be explored.

120. Special procedures mechanisms fulfilled an important role in the protection of human rights. In the period from September 2005 to June 2006 they undertook fact-finding missions to over 40 countries. During the same period they sent over 900 communications to 125 countries in all regions of the world, covering almost 2,500 individuals.

They also undertook a number of ground-breaking studies in thematic areas related to their mandates.

121. In line with my reform programme and the High Commissioner's plan of action, OHCHR is enhancing its country engagement efforts and increasing its field operations. In 2005, OHCHR opened three new offices, in Nepal, Guatemala and Uganda.

122. The OHCHR office in Nepal has a broad mandate to protect and promote human rights, including by conducting monitoring activities throughout the country. During the demonstrations and protests in April 2006, OHCHR monitoring teams throughout the country documented events, helped deter violence and visited over a thousand people who were detained. With regional offices around the country and monitoring on the street, OHCHR was uniquely placed to contribute to the protection of human rights on the ground.

123. Against the background of violent incidents that took place in Timor-Leste in April and May 2006, the Government of Timor-Leste requested the United Nations to establish an independent commission to review the incidents. I then asked the High Commissioner to establish and support an independent special commission of inquiry for Timor-Leste. The commissioners began their work in Timor-Leste in July 2006 and will report to me by October 2006.

124. In my 2005 report "In larger freedom", I argued that together with development and security, human rights formed the third pillar of the Organization's work. The cause of human rights has entered a new era—an era of implementation. The reforms adopted in the past year, as well as those still under way, reflect this evolution and will better equip the United Nations to fulfil the promise of the Charter.

Democracy and good governance

125. The last decade has witnessed substantial progress for democratic governance. Today more Governments have been chosen by competitive elections than at any time in history. This symbolizes important gains in human rights, freedom and choice. Inclusive public participation and competitive multi-party elections are essential for empowering the poor and for building lasting peace settlements, although they are not sufficient by themselves.

126. The past year witnessed several landmark elections in countries emerging from conflict. The United Nations played a key role in providing assistance with elections in Afghanistan, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Haiti, Iraq, Liberia and Palestine—registering voters, administering polling places, facilitating the establishment of electoral laws and strengthening independent electoral commissions. One important outcome of the first legislative elections for the 249-seat Wolesi Jirga ("House of the People") in Afghanistan in September 2005 was the election of 68 women. The United Nations mounted its most ambitious programme ever when aiding elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, costing an estimated \$432 million. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had not held a multi-party election since 1965 and the country was emerging from an extended period of crisis. The complicated political and electoral situation in Côte d'Ivoire led to a new form of United Nations electoral support: the appointment of a High Representative for Elections to facilitate solutions to electoral disagreements.

127. The United Nations has also assisted dozens of countries that have requested advice or support with more routine electoral administration processes, such as training of professional electoral officials, assisting with electoral dispute resolution, advising on electoral system design, supporting voter education programmes, training journalists in campaign coverage and assessing the costs of registration and balloting.

128. Despite these positive developments, many important challenges remain. Organizing inclusive and competitive elections is only one step—though a necessary one—in building democracy. Elections raise expectations that governing institutions and processes will be responsive to the needs and concerns of all citizens, including the poor and marginalized. To fulfil these hopes, work at the United Nations has gradually shifted during the past decade from a traditional emphasis on public administration towards challenging new issues in democratic governance.

129. To strengthen the efforts of Governments, civil society and non-governmental actors and regional and international organizations that are striving to build and consolidate the pillars of democracy, the World Summit decided in September 2005 to establish the United Nations Democracy Fund. The Fund has attracted \$49 million in pledged or contributed funds. The Fund will finance projects designed to empower civil society, strengthen the rule of law, increase popular participation and ensure that people are able to exercise their democratic rights.

130. The United Nations works today with countries to ensure that parliaments are effective and representative, human rights are respected, judges are fair and impartial, the media are inde-

pendent and free and decision-making is responsive to local concerns. Democratic participation and Government capacity-building need to go hand-in-hand. If people vote but experience no real improvement in their daily lives, then they may become disillusioned. If Governments are strengthened but are not accountable to the people, then this process may benefit the few and not the many. This long-term twin challenge lies at the heart of the work of the United Nations on strengthening democratic governance.

131. To achieve these ends, the United Nations provides a wide range of services, policy advice and technical assistance designed to strengthen justice systems and human rights, parliamentary representation, local governance and decentralization, public administration reform and anti-corruption efforts, gender equality, e-governance and access to information, civil society and public opinion. In these programmes, the United Nations collaborates closely with many partners and donor organizations, as well as with parliamentary networks, civil society organizations and other entities.

132. Parliaments can play a critical role by linking citizens and the State, as well as by reducing conflict. The United Nations has worked to strengthen these institutions in more than 50 countries, especially in West African and Arab States. Decentralizing governance is also important for delivering services and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Improving communities and reducing poverty requires public sector management to be efficient and responsive and for corruption to be eradicated.

133. The International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, working with the United Nations, is a forum especially suited to supporting democracy among approximately 120 countries from the developing and developed world. The sixth conference will take place in Doha in October 2006, the first time it will have been held in the Arab world. Together with the Conference, the Community of Democracies also works with the United Nations to widen acceptance of democratic governance within the international community.

134. The last decade has seen important advances in building effective democratic institutions in many countries, including in some of the poorest nations in the world. The United Nations has contributed substantially towards those developments. Yet in many places the quality of democratic governance continues to need further strengthening and in some, democratic progress has stalled and even moved backwards. Unless international commitment and support is maintained well after poll-

ing day, elections may generate empty promises and democratic governance and human development may fail to be sustained.

Humanitarian affairs

135. Humanitarian assistance serves as a tangible demonstration of the United Nations commitment to save lives and alleviate suffering by providing urgently needed help to communities devastated by violent conflict or natural disaster. Emergency relief aid serves as the first rung on the ladder of development, helping vulnerable populations survive catastrophes as they move towards ever-greater self-reliance. In the past 10 years, the humanitarian community has provided assistance and protection to tens of millions of civilians, who tragically continue to be the primary victims of conflict and civil strife. Multiple crises now occur simultaneously across the globe, with humanitarian access and insecurity a growing challenge, especially in fragile or failing States. In 1996 the United Nations issued 13 consolidated appeals totalling \$1.8 billion to assist 17 million people in crises around the world. Ten years later, consolidated appeals sought \$4.7 billion to fund 18 humanitarian programmes serving 31 million people in 26 countries.

136. As part of my reform programme in 1998, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs was reorganized into the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in an effort to strengthen the coherence and overall effectiveness of humanitarian action. The mandate was expanded to include the coordination of humanitarian response, policy development and humanitarian advocacy. In the past decade, the United Nations has intensified inter-agency coordination, improved field-level coordination and bolstered resource mobilization efforts.

137. As I noted in my report "In larger freedom", no country, weak or strong, can remain isolated from or immune to threats of man or nature that transcend borders. Now more than ever we need a revitalized, effective and accountable United Nations that is capable of meeting the humanitarian challenges ahead. To that end, in 2005 the United Nations launched a comprehensive reform of the global humanitarian system that is already demonstrating life-saving results for some of the world's most desperate and destitute communities.

Humanitarian achievements

138. In 2005 the United Nations embarked on a series of reforms aimed at strengthening the global humanitarian system to ensure a more predictable, coordinated, efficient and effective response.

In March 2006 I launched the Central Emergency Response Fund, one of the first reform proposals announced at the 2005 World Summit, marking a critical improvement of the capacity for humanitarian response by the United Nations. To date, more than 40 donors have pledged \$264 million to the new Fund, which upgrades the former Central Emergency Revolving Fund with a grant facility of up to \$450 million added to the \$50 million loan component already in place.

139. Using the Fund, United Nations agencies can now jump start relief operations in the earliest days of a crisis when most lives are on the line and timely resources are most needed. The Fund also redresses some of the current inequities in humanitarian funding by dedicating one third of its resources to core, life-saving activities in chronically neglected crises. Launched five months ago, the Fund has provided more than \$100 million to 10 organizations for more than 150 projects in 20 countries, the majority of them in Africa. Most importantly, the Fund has helped save lives and alleviate the suffering of millions.

140. The second element of reform addresses the need for improved accountability and predictability of response. With humanitarian resources stretched; multiple, simultaneous crises on several continents; and ever-more aid actors in the field, response coordination is not a luxury but a necessity. The newly launched “cluster leadership” provides more systematic predictability by clearly identifying roles and responsibilities within United Nations agencies in nine key areas of response, from relief to early recovery, to help fill gaps in assistance needs.

141. The third element of humanitarian reform underscores the need for strengthened United Nations country-level representation, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

Humanitarian response: results

142. In 2005, the world saw the number of natural disasters increase in frequency and severity. Bracketed by the Indian Ocean tsunami in late 2004 and the South Asian earthquake in October, United Nations humanitarian agencies were stretched to their limits in providing emergency assistance to all those in need.

143. To meet global relief and protection requirements, in 2006 the United Nations issued a consolidated humanitarian appeal for \$4.7 billion to fund 18 programmes serving 31 million people in 26 countries. By mid-year, the appeal was 35 per cent funded. The 2005 consolidated appeal sought nearly

\$6 billion to assist 30 million people in 29 countries, and 67 per cent was funded by year’s end.

144. Last year, United Nations humanitarian agencies provided food aid to 97 million people in 82 countries, including 6.5 million in the Sudan; vaccinated over 30 million children in emergency situations against measles; supported hundreds of health facilities; provided access to shelter, suitable land, safe drinking water and sanitation to hundreds of thousands of people; created hundreds of emergency education facilities; provided protection and assistance to some 20 million refugees and displaced persons; and supported child protection activities in some 150 countries.

Natural disasters

145. While recovery from the tsunami tragedy and efforts to “build back better” proceeded apace, humanitarian actors struggled to cope with an 18 per cent increase in the number of large-scale natural disasters in 2005; 157 million people were affected and 92,000 killed in those disasters. As always, poor communities were at greatest risk—and least able to withstand—nature’s destructive potential.

146. Floods, droughts and windstorms accounted for more than 96 per cent of those affected by natural disasters in 2005. Twenty-seven tropical storms, thirteen of which became hurricanes, devastated populations in twelve countries, killing more than 1,000 people and displacing hundreds of thousands.

147. Earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis were the deadliest natural hazards last year. The worst of these tragedies occurred in October 2005 when a massive earthquake in South Asia killed more than 73,000 people, injured 69,400 and left 3.3 million homeless. Despite unprecedented logistical challenges and harsh Himalayan weather, relief efforts assisted upward of 3 million people with winterized shelter, medical care, food, water and sanitation.

148. In the Horn of Africa, recurring cycles of drought have exacerbated food insecurity and affected 15 million people. In April 2006, I launched a regional appeal for the Horn of Africa addressing both immediate needs for more than 8 million people as well as underlying causes of vulnerability. Of the \$855 million requested, less than 40 per cent of this emergency appeal has been met.

Refugees and displaced persons

149. As 2005 drew to a close, the world saw the number of refugees decline for the fifth straight year, while the number of new refugees was the low-

est in nearly 30 years. Globally, there are now 12.7 million refugees registered by the United Nations (of whom 4.3 million are Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic). In Afghanistan, Burundi and Liberia, hundreds of thousands of people who had been forced from their homes have been able to return to their countries.

150. Sadly, however, there has been a significant rise in the number of internally displaced persons. Worldwide some 23 million people remain displaced as a result of violence and armed conflict. Millions more have been displaced by natural disasters.

Complex emergencies

151. Conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and northern Uganda, among others, continue to claim hundreds of thousands of lives, deprive people of land and property, destroy livelihoods, and foment instability. Regional spillover of localized conflicts in Chad and northern Uganda pose challenges to humanitarian operations, as do the issues of access and security.

152. In Darfur, currently the world's largest relief operation, some 13,000 aid workers are struggling to assist 3 million destitute people—half of Darfur's population—despite daily acts of hideous violence and harassment. In large pockets of Western and Northern Darfur, limited access threatens to sever the humanitarian lifeline for hundreds of thousands of civilians. Overall funding is insufficient to the region's massive humanitarian needs.

153. Humanitarian needs are also acute in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where 3.9 million people have perished from hunger and disease during the country's civil war. Some 1,200 people continue to die each day—a silent tsunami death toll every six months. Despite these grim statistics, only 51 per cent of the country's \$212 million humanitarian appeal was funded in 2005.

154. As we see all too plainly in Darfur, aid cannot be a substitute for political solutions or remain an excuse for political inaction. We must address both symptoms and causes of crises if we are to staunch the world's haemorrhage of human suffering.

The road ahead: humanitarian challenges

155. Significant progress has been made in strengthening our global humanitarian system. However, we need to focus more attention on protecting civilians and establishing safe access to

asylum. Thousands of women are still raped and violated as a matter of course, and defenceless civilians continue to be killed. We need earlier conflict mediation efforts, increased access for humanitarian workers and, most importantly, well-trained and -financed peacekeepers with strong mandates to protect civilians.

156. Funding inequities remain as persistent as they are pervasive; some neglected crises receive barely 20 per cent of funds required. We also need to improve the speed of humanitarian funding so that monies arrive when they can do the most good. Currently, United Nations emergency "flash appeals" receive on average only 16 per cent of funds during the critical first month of a crisis.

157. Humanitarian crises exact a terrible toll on children, who are at grave risk of violence, exploitation, abuse and recruitment into fighting forces. Each year hundreds of thousands of children die from malnutrition, hunger and preventable disease.

158. In the last decade, the number of people affected by disasters was three times higher than in the 1970s. As our climate changes we need to strengthen our disaster risk reduction and preparedness measures, drawing on inter-agency early warning and contingency planning efforts.

159. The need for a reformed, strengthened global humanitarian system has never been more apparent or necessary. We need to work together, harnessing the world's generosity, strength and attention, to tackle the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our day. The Millennium Development Goals represent a shared vision of how to tackle some of these challenges. Our generation has no more worthy goal and no more important aspiration. Let us seize this opportunity. Lives depend on it.

Chapter V

Strengthening the United Nations

The intergovernmental machinery

160. As I have said on several occasions, as the world changes, the United Nations must continue the process of renewal and adaptation. The effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument of its members' collective will is one that is of vital importance for people around the world who look to the Organization for help in defeating poverty, preserving peace, easing humanitarian emergencies and protecting human rights. At the Millennium Summit in 2000, Member States clearly recognized that all the principal organs of the United Nations were in need of reform. At the

2005 World Summit they reaffirmed their commitment to a more efficient and effective United Nations, including with a call for a strengthened intergovernmental machinery.

Security Council

161. I have always maintained that no reform of the United Nations will be complete without the reform of the Security Council. The Council should be more representative of today's geopolitical realities and more efficient and transparent in its working methods. The Millennium Declaration called for an intensification of Member States' efforts "to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects". At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders stated that Security Council reform was "an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations". Enhancing the Council's legitimacy through such reform will enable it to better fulfil its primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security in the world.

162. The High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, which I commissioned to recommend practical measures for ensuring effective collective responses to global security challenges, proposed two models for an equitable enlargement of the Security Council. In my report "In larger freedom", I urged the membership to consider the options and reiterated the need for reform of the Council's working methods. Member States responded actively, by taking initiatives and engaging in debate on both the expansion of the Council and on possible ways to improve the Council's methods of work.

163. There is broad support within the membership on the need for reform of the Security Council. It is important to find common ground for action on this fundamental piece of overall United Nations reform. Indeed, decisions on such reform, taken sooner rather than later, will ensure that the United Nations machinery to promote the establishment and maintenance of peace and security will remain relevant and credible to meet today's and tomorrow's challenges.

General Assembly

164. The Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirmed the General Assembly's central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. In recent years much has been achieved on improvement of the Assembly's working methods. For example, presidents of the Assembly are now elected several months in advance of the opening

of the session, as are the Main Committee chairs and bureaux, thereby dovetailing the transitions between sessions and ensuring the maximum passage and retention of institutional memory. Progress also continues to be made on shortening the agenda, on institutionalizing interactive discussions and question periods with senior Secretariat officials on specific programmes, mandates and activities and on working to ensure maximum coordination and minimum duplication in the subjects and areas covered by different bodies.

165. However, much remains to be done to increase the Assembly's effectiveness and its contribution to the Organization's activities. I am encouraged to see that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly has devoted a number of general debates and thematic meetings to these issues during the current session.

166. While everyone agrees on the need for General Assembly revitalization, there remain contending views on the ways in which this goal might best be achieved. Some Member States focus on the rationalization of the Assembly's working methods, while others advocate a more substantive reinforcement of its role and authority, I continue to believe that many of the elements of these approaches and others could contribute to the greater effectiveness and efficiency that so many Member States wish to see the General Assembly regain.

Economic and Social Council

167. In my report "In larger freedom", I called for a revived role for the Economic and Social Council in shaping, implementing and coordinating the development agenda. During the course of its work, the Council has initiated various relevant initiatives to promote coherence and harmonization, however more could be done to enhance its functions of coordination, policy review and policy dialogue in the economic and social areas mandated by the Charter.

168. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders recognized the need for a more effective and efficient Economic and Social Council. In response to my proposals to revamp the unique functions of the Council, they agreed to strengthen it by reconceiving its function of serving as a platform for high-level dialogue on global economic and social affairs but also assigning some new functions. In particular, Member States decided to establish a high-level development cooperation forum, to be held every two years, for the purpose of reviewing trends in development cooperation, promoting greater coherence in the various development interventions and better linking the normative and operational

work of the Organization. Member States further agreed to hold every year an assessment of progress in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at the ministerial level. I am confident that these functions will contribute to our efforts to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the area of development. In order to allow the Council to respond effectively and efficiently, world leaders also agreed to review and adapt its methods of work.

169. In the follow-up to the World Summit, the President of the General Assembly launched a negotiating process to define the details of the decisions made by world leaders. A draft resolution was tabled by the co-chairs and informal consultations have been held. Member States will resume consultations at the end of August, and I am confident that a final agreement can be reached expeditiously. The strengthening of the Economic and Social Council has long been needed. It is my hope that a strengthened Council will be able to assert its leadership in driving a global development agenda and providing direction to the efforts of the intergovernmental bodies of the Organization working in this field.

The Secretariat

170. Reforming the United Nations has been a priority of mine since I assumed office in 1997. In the past 10 years I have proposed and implemented numerous ideas and changes to bring the United Nations up to best international practices. This has included changes to work programmes, structures and systems, at headquarters locations and in the field. Much of my reform agenda has been implemented, however, not all the reforms were accepted by Member States. Understanding that the Organization needs to continue to improve, in March 2006 I released a final reform package in my report "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide". Much of the agenda contained in the report will be for my successor to implement over the coming years. It is my hope that the Organization will continue to move towards enhanced efficiency and effectiveness.

171. The 1997 reform package included a number of changes to the Secretariat structure, most notably the creation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs from three existing departments and the consolidation of two programmes into the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (now the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). The Centre for Human Rights was also merged into the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights. Three important new structures were introduced to improve United Nations management: the post of Deputy Secretary-General was created, a cabinet in the form of the Senior Management Group was established and four sectoral committees were formed to bring coherence to the work of the United Nations on peace and security, humanitarian affairs, development and economic and social affairs. In 2002 I proposed a second major reform package, which contained proposals for a major overhaul of the Department of Public Information and the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services (now the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management). In 2005, two senior management committees were created to improve executive decision-making and a Management Performance Board was established to improve senior managerial accountability.

172. Efforts to improve the overall efficiency of the Organization also moved on several other fronts. Approximately 1,000 staff posts were permanently eliminated in the 1998-1999 budget. In the 2004-2005 budget cycle, nearly 1,000 reports and activities were consolidated or discontinued and resources were redeployed to higher-priority areas of work. Asked to do more with less, the Organization has had in fact only very limited real growth in its regular budget. Much has been invested in information technologies since the late 1990s. One visible benefit is that all United Nations official reports and publications can now be retrieved for free through the Official Document System, which is available over the Internet. The United Nations website provides extensive materials in multiple languages, making up-to-date information and images available through multimedia sources. Open debates of the Security Council are now webcast along with other important meetings.

173. More broadly, following the findings of an internal staff survey and in response to reported shortcomings in the management of the oil-for-food programme, I introduced at the beginning of 2005 a series of measures to strengthen accountability and improve ethical conduct. In particular, an Ethics Office was established in December 2005, which is now administering new policies of protection for reporting of misconduct and financial disclosure. The Ombudsman, whose office was established in 2002, has been facilitating the informal resolution of disputes between United Nations staff and management. At the request of the General Assembly, I have also commissioned a multidisciplinary panel to analyse and review all aspects of the existing internal justice system. The panel will report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

174. Reforms on procurement were initiated in 1999, and the United Nations has undergone significant transformation since then. To ensure more effectiveness, annual procurement plans now are posted on the United Nations website, which, in addition to providing advance information, allows vendors not registered with the Procurement Division to register and participate. Furthermore, all purchasing requirements are now posted on the website, progress on a transaction can be traced and details of the awards are posted in accordance with international standards. These and other procurement reform efforts were validated by an independent review conducted by the United States National Institute of Government Purchasing in mid-2005. Following a revelation of criminal misconduct concerning a United Nations procurement official, later that year I ordered a comprehensive review of internal and financial controls. The General Assembly approved emergency funding in July 2006 to increase the professional capacity in this area. Further reforms are to be discussed by Member States at the sixty-first session of the Assembly.

175. The budgeting system has been transformed from one focusing on a detailed description of inputs and resources to one that identifies intended outcomes and measurable indicators of achievement. The long-range planning cycle has been reduced from four years to two and a duplicative intergovernmental review eliminated. In addition, the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations have been updated and consolidated to delegate more authority but make managers more accountable. In the reform package set out in "Investing in the United Nations", I propose more comprehensive strengthening of the financial management and budgetary processes.

176. My latest reform proposals recognize the need for an integrated and mobile global workforce that draws on and develops the experience and talent existing both at Headquarters and in the field. A host of improvements to the United Nations system of managing its people has been introduced in recent years. First, a new web-based recruitment system for hiring, reassigning and promoting staff to ensure greater transparency in advertising vacancies was put in place in 2002. Managers are now empowered to select their own staff, subject to appropriate checks and balances. Second, incentives to encourage staff mobility between duty stations and functions were introduced. Training and learning programmes for all staff are now more widely available. Third, a new performance appraisal system was introduced. Finally, a number of "staff-friendly" benefits were introduced to bring the United Nations in line with

major corporations offering similar incentives, including the introduction of flexible working hours, telecommuting possibilities and paternity leave entitlements. However, more can and should be done, and I have appealed to Member States for a significant infusion of resources for this purpose.

177. Facing a sharp escalation in threats against United Nations personnel, the staff security procedures were reviewed, first in 2000 and again in 2003, following the tragic loss of 22 United Nations staff in Baghdad. In late 2004 I recommended a major overhaul of the United Nations security system. This included a request for a sizeable increase in resources allocated for protection of staff and proposals to strengthen and clarify the chain of command. A new Department of Safety and Security was subsequently created, consolidating functions previously performed by separate offices. It now provides timely, professional advice on security-related matters, including through more thorough threat and risk assessment. The new department is responsible for the security of some 100,000 United Nations staff and 300,000 dependants in 150 duty stations throughout the United Nations system, many of which are in crisis and post-conflict risk situations.

The mandates of the Organization

178. In 1954, Dag Hammarskjöld conducted the first review of mandates, at the request of the membership. Since then there has been no other attempt to review the mandates adopted by Member States to guide the work of the Organization. I therefore proposed in my report "In larger freedom" that Member States undertake a review of all mandates older than five years to see whether activities concerned were still genuinely needed or whether the resources assigned to them could be reallocated in response to new and emerging challenges. I stressed the need for "a capable and effective" Secretariat that could change in response to changing needs of the Organization. I underlined that Member States had a central role to play in ensuring that the Organization's mandates stayed current.

179. In September 2005 at the World Summit, world leaders responded by requesting the General Assembly and other relevant organs to review all mandates older than five years originating from resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs in order "to strengthen and update the programme of work of the United Nations". They further requested me to facilitate this process with analysis and recommendations. In response to that request, I provided an analytical framework for review of the

Organization's mandates in my report "Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates". That report addressed key challenges in the mandate generation cycle, including the lack of evaluative information on the effectiveness of mandates, burdensome reporting requirements, overlap between and within organs and the gap between mandates and resources. The report also made recommendations in relation to each of the Organization's programme priorities. It was supplemented by an online inventory of mandates, designed to facilitate Member States' review.

180. The General Assembly began reviewing its mandates through a series of informal consultations, which also saw the participation of senior programme managers. Member States responded to the recommendations in my report and provided additional proposals of their own aimed at strengthening the programme of work of the Organization. The Assembly also authorized an ad hoc working group to review in the first stage of the exercise mandates older than five years that have not been renewed. Work is ongoing, and the Secretariat will continue to assist and facilitate the exercise throughout the process.

181. Concurrently with the consultations in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council have begun the process of reviewing their own mandates. The review of the Economic and Social Council has been following a process similar to that in the Assembly. The Security Council has focused on an initial set of mandates for its first phase. As I have mentioned on several occasions, the review of mandates is a historic opportunity to renew and strengthen the work of the Organization. Member States should seize this opportunity to ensure that our Organization can respond effectively to today's needs.

Cooperating with regional organizations

182. Over the past decade there has been a significant increase in the range of partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations in such areas as peacekeeping and peace-making, strengthening good governance and the rule of law, promoting respect for human rights and responding to humanitarian emergencies. I have stressed the importance of a new vision of global security that draws upon the resources and legitimacy of effective regional and global institutions that are both flexible and responsive to the complex challenges of today's world.

183. To support those efforts, I have engaged the heads of regional organizations in regular ex-

changes of views on issues of common concern. The high-level meetings with the heads of regional organizations and other intergovernmental organizations have now been made an annual event so that we can focus on practical cooperation on key issues and follow up more effectively. At the sixth high-level meeting, which I convened in July 2005, we established a standing committee to provide overall guidance to the process of creating a more structured relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations so a genuine agreement based on comparative advantages can be realized.

184. At the World Summit last September, world leaders supported a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations, as envisaged in Chapter VIII of the Charter, and resolved to expand cooperation with such organizations through practical means, such as formalized agreements between their respective secretariats. The implementation process will be reported to the seventh high-level meeting, which I will convene in September 2006. Also, a report capturing the past, present and future of our evolving joint work is being submitted to the Security Council for its meeting on 20 September under the presidency of Greece. This is an important opportunity to consolidate institutional relationships and look to the future.

185. Our joint working groups have also decided to enlist the support of the United Nations University's comparative regional integration studies programme to study the organizational, operational and resource capacities of partner organizations in the maintenance of peace and security. Meanwhile, I have moved to ensure that the Secretariat itself is adequately resourced to service the strengthening partnership.

System-wide coherence

186. The fragmentation of the United Nations system and the consequent inability of United Nations support to generate maximum impact at the country level has been an issue of concern to Member States for many years.

187. In response to this concern, I have introduced several important initiatives, which together have made a significant difference in the way the United Nations works, especially at the country level. Four Executive Committees were established in 1997—on development, humanitarian affairs, peace and security, and economic and social affairs—to provide a forum where United Nations departments and programmes could discuss specific issues on a regular basis and plan more coherent ap-

proaches to each issue. As they began to be effective, most of the specialized agencies asked to join, resulting in greatly increased communication and understanding among the various entities working on those issues.

188. At the same time, as I noted earlier, I established a cabinet structure, the Senior Management Group, wherein the heads of the key departments of the Secretariat could interact and, by inviting the chairs of the four Executive Committees, provided a link to the wider United Nations system. The Policy and Management Committees are enhancing decision-making at the most senior level.

189. These Headquarters coordination and decision-making mechanisms have complemented the pre-existing United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, which I chair twice a year, bringing together the heads of all United Nations entities to further cooperation on a range of substantive and management issues.

190. While addressing the need for better coordination at Headquarters, I have also focused most of my efforts on country-level coordination. The resident coordinator system has been improved, including through an expanded United Nations Development Group and a toolkit that includes operational tools and procedures agreed upon across the development agencies, thus providing for much more coherent action at the country level. Furthermore, the humanitarian coordinators can count on strong technical support and guidance, an emergency fund at his or her disposal and agreed leadership roles to play to ensure a fast and effective humanitarian response. Progress has also been made in ensuring synergy and coherence between the activities of peacekeeping operations and country teams, both during and after the mission period, through the establishment of a post under the Special Representative of the Secretary-General charged with bridging the two United Nations presences in the field and leading joint planning at the country level.

191. At the 2005 World Summit, leaders called for stronger system-wide coherence across the United Nations system and in particular across development-related organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system. To this end, the Summit Outcome specifically invited me “to launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of United Nations operational activities”, while continuing ongoing efforts to strengthen the governance, management and coordination of the Organization.

192. In February 2006, I created a High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence.

The Panel brings together 15 eminent persons, whose extraordinary experience and authority are a measure of the importance that I attach to the Panel’s work and are a reflection of the wish of all Member States to create a more coherent and effective Organization.

193. The objective of the Panel is to propose recommendations that will lead to a revitalized United Nations system that is better equipped to help achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, the Panel’s aim is to help create a United Nations system that provides more effective support for plans and priorities defined at the country level to address development, humanitarian, environmental and other critical challenges, including gender issues, human rights and sustainable development. The Panel is expected to deliver its recommendations to me by September 2006 to allow for a formal presentation to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session and possible implementation in 2007.

194. In order to ensure the engagement and commitment of all key stakeholders, the Panel has undertaken a broad consultative process including country, regional and thematic consultations, as well as meetings with Member States and United Nations organizations and hearings with civil society organizations. Moreover, the work of the Panel is enriched by research, analysis and insights from inside and outside the Organization, and takes into account other complementary United Nations reform efforts.

Chapter VI

Global constituencies

Strengthening ties to civil society

195. Since the early 1990s, and particularly during my term as Secretary-General, the relationship of the United Nations with civil society has greatly deepened and expanded. This has been the case even though the United Nations is and will remain an intergovernmental organization, where decisions are taken by its Member States. This process of increasing engagement with civil society and other non-State actors has strengthened both the institution and the intergovernmental debate and has been part of the ongoing process of modernization and institutional change that the Organization has undergone in the past decade. As I wrote in “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”, the goals of the United

Nations can be achieved only if civil society and Governments are fully engaged.

196. Civil society has been a key partner of the United Nations since its inception, whether at the country level delivering humanitarian assistance or at the global level participating in debates in the Economic and Social Council. But in the past two decades or so, there has been an enormous transformation in the nature and importance of the role of civil society, at the national level and in the international arena, including at the United Nations. The growth of civil society at the international level has paralleled the globalization process. Globalization, and the technologies that partly propelled it, has led to a broadening of horizons, the multiplication of global issues, a widening of interests and increased opportunities for participatory democracy.

197. Where once representative democracy was at the core of democratic forms of governance, today participatory democracy is increasingly important. Representative democracy is under stress in many countries, as demonstrated by low turnouts for elections and disillusioned citizens. The ability of civil society organizations to represent the interests of citizens, to interact directly with Governments and to participate directly in policy debates at the national and international levels contributes to the legitimacy of democratic ideals.

198. Where once large intergovernmental meetings and conferences were mainly the realm of Governments, today it would be unthinkable to stage such events without the policy perspectives, unique advocacy and mobilization of civil society. The engagement of civil society has clearly enhanced the legitimacy, accountability and transparency of intergovernmental decision-making. A recent example is the global mobilization of civil society around debt, trade and aid issues and the Millennium Development Goals by the Global Call to Action against Poverty in 2005.

199. Where once agendas were set by Governments, today civil society has brought new issues to the table and has been instrumental in, for instance, the establishment of the International Criminal Court and the adoption of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

200. Where once governance was limited to Governments, today various non-State actors, including civil society, are part of various governance structures. Recent examples are the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS and the Internet Governance Forum, which will have its first meeting from 30 October to 2 November 2006 in Athens.

201. Where once monitoring and enforcement were largely the role of Governments, today civil society has an important role in making sure that commitments are implemented, for example in timber certification, the fight against child labour, corporate social responsibility and human rights.

202. Where once checks and balances in democratic societies were largely the domain of national parliaments, today civil society plays its part.

203. Given the increasing importance of civil society, the United Nations has found several ways to engage with it. Many United Nations entities, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, consult with civil society on a regular basis through various mechanisms, such as forums, hearings, consultations, advisory committees and the like. This is, of course, critical given the fact that civil society has become an essential partner for different kinds of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding operations of the United Nations. The number of operational activities of the United Nations where civil society has played an increasingly important role has expanded, and now also includes such areas as electoral support and conflict prevention.

204. In July, the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment that I appointed in February and the High-level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations held hearings with civil society in Geneva.

205. Throughout my term as Secretary-General, I have consistently encouraged a deeper relationship between the United Nations and civil society. I have myself actively engaged with civil society on many occasions—including at the major United Nations conferences and summits, during my travels and at Headquarters. One recent example is my visit to Darfur in March 2005, where I met with representatives of non-governmental organizations, who work in Darfur under very dangerous circumstances, to underline the crucial role of non-governmental organizations in the international community's efforts there.

206. The exponential growth in both numbers and influence prompted me to establish a Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations, chaired by the former president of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, to assess and draw lessons from interactions between the United Nations and civil society and recommend ways to improve them. The Panel submitted its report in June 2004 and I presented my response to it in September of the same year.

207. The Panel argued very convincingly that the United Nations must become an even more

outward-looking organization. That means using its unique convening power to reach out to diverse constituencies, especially where such actors command great expertise or resources relevant to a particular issue. Facilitating the participation of different stakeholders in relevant debates of global significance can only enhance the quality and depth of policy analysis and implementable outcomes, including in the form of partnerships. In that way, the United Nations will expand its global reach and influence, ensuring that its decisions will be better understood and supported by a broad and diverse public.

208. Unfortunately, the Member States have not taken any formal action on the Cardoso Panel's recommendations and my response to them. Nevertheless, a number of actions have been taken. For example, the United Nations Development Group is strengthening the capacity of United Nations resident coordinators to engage with civil society at the country level. A number of country offices have appointed a civil society focal point in the United Nations country team to strengthen engagement of the United Nations system with civil society, pursuant to my recommendations. Work is also under way to establish a trust fund to support the country teams in their work with civil society.

209. In addition, at the intergovernmental level, the General Assembly has held four informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. The first one was held during the lead-up to the 2005 World Summit, and three additional ones were held in 2006 as inputs to the high-level meetings to review the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and on international migration and development. These hearings have been an important innovation for interaction between civil society and the Assembly.

210. The President of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly appointed in May 2006 the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Norway as his personal advisers on the relationship between Member States and civil society, including non-governmental organizations. The advisers conducted a series of consultations with non-governmental organizations, Member States and United Nations staff. The President sent their report to all Member States on 7 July 2006.

211. The report acknowledges that there are clear differences in expectations between Member States and civil society on the relationship between them. Yet, it suggests that there is sufficient ground

to explore better interaction and more meaningful inclusiveness, for example, through meetings between the President of the General Assembly and civil society at the beginning of his or her term or at other key moments, and between the chairs of the Main Committees of the Assembly and civil society.

212. Civil society is now such a powerful force in the world that the United Nations will have to continue exploring new mechanisms and formats for engaging with it. As we move forward on this together, it is important that we collectively address some Member States' lingering concerns about, and sometimes mistrust of, civil society. Our civil society partners must ensure that they comply scrupulously with the responsibilities and obligations that accompany their rights at the United Nations and continue to improve their overall transparency and accountability to others. I am aware that many civil society organizations, associations, networks and bodies are rising to these challenges in a variety of creative ways, and this bodes well for the future.

213. One other area that requires attention is the frequent underrepresentation of civil society from developing countries at United Nations meetings. Establishing a better regional balance would require changes both within civil society and by Member States. International civil society organizations, for example, could make more of an effort to include organizations from developing countries in their networks, choose citizens from developing countries as their representatives at the United Nations and base their headquarters more often in developing countries. Member States could help by generously supporting travel and related expenses of participants from developing countries in United Nations events. At the same time, we should use modern communication technologies to explore how civil society organizations from different regions can make contributions to global policy debates and discussions without having to be physically present.

Engaging the business community

214. For the first time in over 60 years of United Nations history, we are making business and other social actors vital partners in pursuit of our goals. This new relationship has had two fundamental implications for the work of the Organization.

215. First, it has furthered progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, ultimately improving the lives of the poor by facilitating support in critical areas, ranging from simple advocacy of United Nations goals to the

provision of humanitarian assistance and the formation of partnerships in information technology, microcredit and health. Hundreds of projects in support of the Millennium Development Goals have resulted from this engagement, including those initiated under the Growing Sustainable Business for Poverty Reduction initiative, which aims to stimulate profitable foreign investment in the world's poorest countries to foster sustainable economic opportunities on the ground.

216. Second, new forms of engagement with businesses also advance United Nations reform by providing the Organization with exposure to improved management practices and better ways of leveraging its moral authority and convening power, thus becoming a powerful catalyst for institutional innovation across the system.

217. At the centre of these efforts is the Global Compact, which I launched in July 2000. It is the world's largest corporate citizenship initiative today, with over 3,000 participants from more than 100 countries, over half from the developing world. Through learning, dialogue and partnership projects, the Global Compact has brought about far-reaching changes. The alignment of corporate activities with broader United Nations goals has also brought about significant improvements in governance and capacity-building for suppliers and small enterprises. By advocating universal principles as an integral part of business strategies and operations, global markets have become more robust and inclusive.

218. Through the Global Compact Office, many United Nations organizations have found a new entry point for engaging businesses and improving their own ability to work with the private sector. The Organization itself, through the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the procurement process, is internalizing the Global Compact's principles, thus gaining credibility and ethical strength. Overall, these changes are bringing greater efficiency and innovative ways of leveraging institutional advantages throughout the Organization.

219. The other main entry point for the business community is the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), which has provided vital support to a wide array of United Nations programmes, generated nearly \$1 billion in new resources for United Nations causes, and has evolved into the United Nations Office for Partnerships. While our engagement of businesses is firmly rooted in the understanding that the goals of business and the United Nations are very distinct, there are increasingly overlapping objectives. Nonetheless, this coop-

eration requires clear rules of engagement in order to protect the United Nations while forging partnerships that advance practical implementation. Today, the Organization has in place integrity measures and policy frameworks to define the rules of engagement. The Global Compact Office has spearheaded many of these developments, and I am confident that it will continue to lead this promising reform from within the Organization. It is my hope that Member States will continue to support these efforts and that engagement with the business community and other societal actors will continue to evolve as an integral part of organizational change to make the United Nations fit for the twenty-first century.

Chapter VII

Conclusion

220. The themes of good governance and accountability run through this report like golden threads. The Member States need to be well governed and accountable to their citizens if they are to nourish economic and social development, if they are to achieve lasting security and if they are to uphold human rights under the rule of law. The Organization, for its part, can become stronger and more effective only if it is better managed and more clearly accountable to the Member States.

221. Let me conclude by observing that these principles are also valid for the global order. The United Nations is not a world government, and therefore ensuring good governance and accountability at the global level is not simply a matter of improving the efficiency of the United Nations. It goes far beyond that. It is a matter of ensuring that governors are responsible to the governed and that world Powers remember their responsibility to those whose lives may be transformed, for better or worse, by their decisions.

222. That implies a need for greater accountability and transparency, and fairer representation, in all global institutions. More than that, it implies that all global institutions need to be transformed into an effective expression of an emerging global community, underpinned by shared values, held together by bonds of human solidarity and inspired by mutual respect and understanding among people of different cultures and traditions. If we continue to move in this direction, the human species will not simply survive on this small planet but will in fact thrive. The fact that the destinies of all the world's inhabitants are so closely interlinked will no longer be simply a reality, but indeed a source of hope.

Statistical annex

Millennium Development Goals, targets and indicators, 2006

	World	Africa				Asia				CIS			T.C. of South-Eastern Europe	Developed regions	LDC	LLDC	SIDS	
		Developing regions	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Latin America & Caribbean	Eastern	Southern	South-Eastern	Western	Oceania	All	Europe						Asia
GOAL 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger																		
TARGET 1 - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day																		
Indicator 1. Population below \$1 purchasing power parity per day (percentage) ^a																		
	1990	27.9	2.2 ^b	44.6	11.3	33.0	39.4	19.6	2.2 ^b	19.6	0.4				0.4			
	2002	19.4	2.4 ^b	44.0	14.1	14.1	31.2	7.3	2.4 ^b	7.3	2.5				1.8			
TARGET 2 - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger																		
Indicator 4. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age (percentage)																		
	1990	33	10	32	11	19	53	39	11									
	2004	28	9	30	7	8	47	28	8									
Indicator 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (percentage)																		
	1990-1992	20	4	33	13	16	25	18	6	15	7 ^c	4 ^c	16 ^c	<2.5 ^c	22	38	23	
	2001-2003	17	4	31	10	12	21	12	9	12	7	3	20	<2.5	19	36	19	
GOAL 2 Achieve universal primary education																		
TARGET 3 - Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling																		
Indicator 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education (primary-level enrollees per 100 children of enrolment age) ^d																		
	1991	81.2	78.8	80.6	53.0	85.8	97.7	72.2	92.3	79.7	74.4	88.8	91.0	84.1	96.4	52.1	51.7	66.5
	2004	87.0	85.8	94.0	64.2	94.9	94.1	89.3	92.9	82.9	79.6	90.9	90.1	91.8	95.6	69.0	69.4	82.8
Indicator 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds (percentage)																		
	1990	84.3	80.9	66.3	67.4	92.7	95.5	61.5	94.3	80.1	73.5	99.2	99.8	97.7	99.7	56.3	65.0	84.8
	2000-2004 ^e	87.2	85.0	84.3	73.1	96.0	98.9	72.2	96.2	91.3	72.8	99.7	99.7	99.8	99.3	63.7	70.3	85.3
GOAL 3 Promote gender equality and empower women																		
TARGET 4 - Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015																		
Indicator 9a. Ratio of girls' gross enrolment ratios to boys' gross enrolment ratios in primary education																		
	1991	0.89	0.87	0.82	0.84	0.97	0.93	0.76	0.96	0.83	0.92	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.79	0.82	0.96
	2004	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.89	0.97	1.00	0.91	0.97	0.89	0.91	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.88	0.86	0.95

	World	Africa			Asia			CIS			I.C. of South-Eastern Europe	LDC	LLDC	SIDS				
		Developing regions	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Latin America & Caribbean	Eastern	Southern	South-Eastern	Western	Oceania					All	Europe	Asia	Developed regions
Indicator 9b. Ratio of girls' gross enrolment ratios to boys' gross enrolment ratios in secondary education																		
	1999	0.92	0.88	0.93	0.82	1.07	0.95	0.74	0.97	0.79	0.93	1.03	1.05	0.96	1.01	0.77	0.81	1.05
	2004	0.94	0.92	0.97	0.79	1.08	1.00	0.83	1.00	0.80	0.93	0.98	0.99	0.96	1.01	0.81	0.81	1.04
Indicator 9c. Ratio of girls' gross enrolment ratios to boys' gross enrolment ratios in tertiary education																		
	1999	0.97	0.78	0.69	0.69	1.12	0.55	0.63	0.99	0.82	0.67	1.20	1.27	0.89	1.19	0.57	0.73	1.15
	2004	1.03	0.87	0.93	0.63	1.17	0.81	0.70	1.04	0.89	0.90	1.28	1.32	1.02	1.27	0.63	0.83	1.25
Indicator 10. Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old																		
	1990	0.91	0.88	0.73	0.80	1.00	0.96	0.72	0.97	0.81	0.87	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.72	0.80	0.97
	2000-2004*	0.93	0.91	0.87	0.88	1.01	0.99	0.79	0.99	0.92	0.94	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.86	1.00
Indicator 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector																		
	1990	35.9		20.1	32.4	38.3	37.9	13.1	37.3	16.6	28.4	48.5			43.4			
	2004	39.1		20.3	35.0	43.2	41.2	17.3	38.3	20.1	37.3	51.1			46.4			
Indicator 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (single or lower house only, percentage)																		
	1990	12.4	10.4	2.6	7.2	11.9	20.2	5.7	10.4	4.6	1.2				15.4	7.3	14.0	14.4
	2006 ¹	16.6	15.3	7.0	16.2	20.4	19.5	12.8	15.8	7.6	3.2	10.8	11.0	10.6	21.1	15.6	16.3	17.8
GOAL 4 Reduce child mortality																		
TARGET 5 - Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate																		
Indicator 13. Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)																		
	1990	95	106	88	185	54	48	126	78	69	87	50	28	83	12	29		
	2004	79	87	37	168	31	31	90	43	58	80	44	20	78	7	17		
Indicator 15. Proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles (percentage of children aged 12-23 months who received at least one dose of measles vaccine)																		
	1990	73	71	85	56	76	98	58	71	80	70	85			84	93		
	2004	76	73	94	65	92	85	62	81	88	48	98			92	96		
GOAL 5 Improve maternal health																		
TARGET 6 - Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio																		
Indicator 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel																		
	1990	47	43	40	42	72	51	30	38	60		99	99	97		96		
	2004	58	56	71	46	88	79	36	68	66		99	99	99		96		

	World		Africa				Asia				CIS			T.C. of South-Eastern Europe	Developed regions	LDC	SIDS
	Developing regions	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Latin America & Caribbean	Eastern	Southern	South-Eastern	Western	Oceania	All	Europe	Asia					
GOAL 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases																	
TARGET 7 - Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS																	
Indicator 18a. HIV prevalence (estimated adult, 15-49, percentage)																	
	1990	0.37	<0.1	2.7	0.3	<0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.2		
	2005	1.1	0.1	5.8	0.6	0.1	0.7	0.5	<0.1	1.5	1.1	0.2	0.5				
Indicator 18b. HIV prevalence (percentage of adults living with HIV who are women)																	
	1990		<20	54	33	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20		
	2005		22	59	34	27	28	33	<20	59	31	27	28				
Indicator 19a. Condom use at last high-risk sex (percentage of population 15-24 that used a condom during last high-risk sex, ⁹ 1998-2004; number of countries covered by the surveys provided in parentheses)																	
	Women			27 (26)					51 (1)								
	Men			43 (25)					59 (1)				54 (3)				
Indicator 19b. Percentage of population aged 15-24 with comprehensive correct knowledge ^h of HIV/AIDS (percentage, 1998-2004; number of countries covered by the surveys provided in parentheses)																	
	Women			24 (34)					21 (1)	18 (3)					6 (5)		
	Men			31 (18)					17 (1)								
Indicator 20. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 ⁱ (number of countries covered by the surveys provided in parentheses)																	
	1998-2004								0.85 (39)								
TARGET 8 - Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases																	
Indicator 22a. Population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention measures (percentage of children under 5 who sleep under insecticide-treated bed nets)																	
	1999-2004																
				4													
Indicator 22b. Population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria treatment measures (percentage of children under 5 with fever who are appropriately treated)																	
	1999-2004																
				37						3							
Indicator 23a. Incidence and death rates associated with tuberculosis (number of cases per 100,000 population, excluding HIV infected)																	
	1990	122	149	59	148	98	116	173	272	68	203	51	48	60	28		
	2004	128	151	49	281	59	102	166	217	50	166	108	104	117	16		
Indicator 23b. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis (number of deaths per 100,000 population, excluding HIV infected)																	
	1990	28	35	5	38	14	25	45	67	11	53	9	9	9	3		
	2004	23	27	4	56	8	16	31	36	8	29	17	17	17	2		
Indicator 24a. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected under DOTs (percentage)																	
	2000	28	29	82	36	43	30	15	39	27	13	11	3	36	22		
	2004	53	54	83	47	58	63	51	65	26	26	22	13	46	44		

	World	Africa			Asia			CIS			I.C. of South-Eastern Europe	Developed regions	LDC	LLDC	SIDS
		Developing regions	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Latin America & Caribbean	Eastern	Southern	South-Eastern	Western	Oceania					
Indicator 24b. Proportion of tuberculosis cases cured under DOTS (percentage)															
	2000	82	88	72	81	94	83	86	81	76	76	68	78	77	
	2003	82	86	72	83	93	86	86	83	67	72	62	76	76	
GOAL 7 Ensure environmental sustainability															
TARGET 9 – Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources															
Indicator 25. Proportion of land area covered by forest (percentage)															
	1990	31.3	1.3	29.2	49.9	16.5	14.0	56.3	3.3	68.3	38.6	46.6	3.9	30.4	
	2005	30.3	1.5	26.5	46.0	19.8	14.2	46.8	3.5	63.4	38.6	46.7	3.9	30.8	
Indicator 26. Area protected to maintain biological diversity (percentage of total territorial area, including terrestrial and marine)															
	1990	8.7	9.0	3.5	10.5	12.8	10.4	4.8	6.1	4.0 ¹	1.2	6.5	7.3	3.0	12.4
	2005	11.6	12.2	4.7	11.2	17.7	14.4	6.0	9.5	18.7 ¹	1.6	7.7	8.6	3.9	16.3
Indicator 27. Energy use per \$1,000 GDP (consumption of kg oil equivalent) ^k															
	1990	235	266	164	360	167	419	245	203	250	658 ¹	625 ¹	985 ¹	216	415
	2003	212	218	165	363	162	219	201	211	287	531	519	627	189	261
Indicator 28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita, in metric tons) ^m															
	1990	4.0	1.6 ⁿ	1.9 ⁿ	0.8 ⁿ	2.4 ⁿ	2.4 ⁿ	0.8 ⁿ	1.0 ⁿ	4.7 ⁿ	1.4 ⁿ	13.2 ⁿ	12.6 ⁿ	7.2 ⁿ	12.6 ⁿ
	2003	4.0	2.2 ⁿ	2.8 ⁿ	0.7 ⁿ	2.4 ⁿ	3.4 ⁿ	1.2 ⁿ	1.7 ⁿ	5.8 ⁿ	1.4 ⁿ	8.1 ⁿ	9.1 ⁿ	5.1 ⁿ	12.9 ⁿ
Indicator 28b. Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (CFC in millions of ODP tonnes)															
	1990	113.4	9.1	8.9	32.6	41.8	2.5	16.1	6.1	0.04	105.9	104.5	1.4	514.7	3.5
	2004	63.4	4.3	3.9	13.6	22.9	7.1	8.2	4.2	0.02	0.7	0.5	0.2	1.9	0.6
TARGET 10 – Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation															
Indicator 30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural (percentage)															
	1990	78	71	89	49	83	71	72	76	85	51	92	100	100	
	Urban	95	93	95	82	93	99	90	93	94	92	97	100	100	
	Rural	64	60	82	36	60	59	66	68	70	39	84	99	99	
	2004	83	80	91	56	91	78	85	82	91	51	92	99	99	
	Urban	95	92	96	80	96	93	94	89	97	80	99	100	100	

	World	Africa			Asia				CIS			I.C. of South-Eastern Europe	Developed regions	LDC	LLDC	SIDS
		Developing regions	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Latin America & Caribbean	Eastern	Southern	South-Eastern	Western	Oceania	All					
Rural	73	70	86	42	73	67	81	77	79	40	80		95			
Indicator 31. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural (percentage)																
1990	49	35	65	32	68	24	20	49	81	54	82		100			
Urban	79	68	84	52	81	64	54	70	97	80	92		100			
Rural	26	17	47	24	36	7	8	40	55	46	63		99			
2004	59	50	77	37	77	45	38	67	84	53	83		99			
Urban	80	73	91	53	86	69	63	81	96	80	92		100			
Rural	39	33	62	28	49	28	27	56	59	43	67		98			
TARGET 11 - By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers																
Indicator 32a. Access to secure tenure (slum population in millions)																
1990	721.6	660.9	21.7	101.0	110.8	150.8	198.7	49.0	28.6	0.4	9.2	9.7	41.8	81.9	46.5	5.7
2001	924.0	860.1	21.4	166.2	127.6	193.8	253.1	56.8	40.7	0.5	8.9	9.8	45.2	140.1	47.3	7.3
Indicator 32b. Access to secure tenure (percentage of urban population living in slums)																
1990	31.6	47.0	37.7	72.3	35.4	41.1	63.7	36.8	34.4	24.5	6.0	30.3	6.0	76.3	48.4	24.0
2001	31.6	43.3	28.2	71.9	31.9	36.4	59.0	28.0	35.3	24.1	6.0	29.4	6.0	78.2	56.5	24.4
GOAL 8 Develop a global partnership for development																
TARGET 12 - Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system																
TARGET 13 - Address the special needs of the least developed countries																
TARGET 14 - Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States																
TARGET 15 - Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term																
Indicator 33a. Net ODA to all developing and least developed countries (annual total assistance in billions of United States dollars)																
1990		52.7												15.2		
2004		106.5 ^a												23.5		
Indicator 33b. Net ODA, to all developing and least developed countries (percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income)																
1990		0.33												0.09		
2004		0.33 ^a												0.08		
Indicator 34. Proportion of bilateral, sector allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services - basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation (percentage)																
1995-1996	8.1															

	World	Africa			Asia			CIS			I.C. of South-Eastern Europe	LDC	LLDC	SIDS
		Developing regions	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Latin America & Caribbean	Eastern	Southern	South-Eastern	Western	Oceania				
2003-2004	16.0													
Indicator 35. Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors' that is untied (percentage)														
1990	67.6													
2004	91.3													
Indicator 36. ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes (percentage)														
1990													6.5	
2004													7.3	
Indicator 37. ODA received in small island developing states as a proportion of their gross national incomes (percentage)														
1990														2.8
2004														1.1
Indicator 38a. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value, excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty (percentage)														
1996		52												67
2004		75												81
Indicator 38b. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value, excluding arms and oil) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty (percentage)														
1996		53												77
2004		75												79
Indicator 39a. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products from developing countries (percentage)														
1996		9.8												4.3
2004		8.4												3.4
Indicator 39b. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on textiles from developing countries (percentage)														
1996		8.1												5.7
2004		5.7												1.5
Indicator 39c. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on clothing from developing countries (percentage)														
1996		14.5												11.4
2004		10.4												2.5
Indicator 40. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product														
1990														1.90

	World	Africa			Asia			CIS			I.C. of South-Eastern Europe	LDC	LLDC	SIDS				
		Developing regions	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Latin America & Caribbean	Eastern	Southern	South-Eastern	Western	Oceania					All	Europe	Asia	Developed regions
	2004 ^a													1.16				
Indicator 41. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity (trade-related technical assistance/capacity-building as a percentage of total sector allocable ODA)																		
	2001	4.0																
	2004	3.6																
Indicator 42a. Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC completion points																		
	2000	1		1														
	2006	18		14	4													
Indicator 42b. Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points (but not completion point)																		
	2000	21		17	4													
	2006	11		11														
Indicator 42c. Total number of countries that have yet to be considered for HIPC decision points																		
	2000	16																
	2006	9		7									2					
Indicator 42d. Total number of countries eligible for HIPC																		
	2000	38																
	2006	38																
Indicator 43. Debt relief committed under HIPC (to countries that have reached their decision or completion point, in billions of United States dollars, cumulative)																		
	2000	34																
	2006 ^f	59																
Indicator 44. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services																		
	1990	16.4	39.8	11.5	20.5	4.7	17.7	16.7	14	3.9 ^g	3.9 ^u	3.5 ^u	9.4	16.8				
	2004	7	10.9	5.8	14.6	0.9	14.7	9.2	1.2 ^v	5.5	5.6	4.4	8.9	8.2				
TARGET 16 - In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth																		
Indicator 45. Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years																		
	1995	12.1	33.9	18.0	14.2	7.2	9.4	9.7	20.8	7.9	19.4		15.8					
	2005	13.7	34.5	18.3	15.2	7.8	11.3	17.0	23.6	6.6	18.1		13.8					
TARGET 17 - In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries																		
TARGET 18 - In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications																		
Indicator 47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers (number of telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population)																		
	1990	10.1	2.3	2.9	1.0	6.4	2.4	0.7	1.4	10.0	3.4	12.5	45.4	13.8	0.3	2.3	7.3	

	World	Africa			Asia				CIS			T.C. of South-Eastern Europe	Developed regions	LDC	LLDC	SIDS	
		Developing regions	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Latin America & Caribbean	Eastern	Southern	South-Eastern	Western	Oceania	All						Europe
2004	46.4	31.7	27.6	8.2	50.0	54.1	8.4	27.4	52.5	10.1	57.1	130.1	73.8	3.2	7.4	37.8	
Indicator 48a. Personal computers and Internet users (number of personal computers per 100 population)																	
1990	2.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.3	1.2	0.0	0.3	11.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	3.9	
2004	13.0	4.9	2.6	1.6	9.0	6.9	1.7	3.5	10.8	6.5	9.6	55.9	8.1	0.8	1.3	13.3	
Indicator 48b. Personal computers and Internet users (number of Internet users per 100 population)																	
1990	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
2004	13.7	7.0	6.3	1.8	11.9	10.3	3.4	7.4	10.5	4.7	8.9	51.4	16.5	0.7	1.4	12.9	

Source: United Nations Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goal Indicators and Millennium Development Goal indicators database (<http://mdgs.un.org>).

Abbreviations: CDIAC, Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (United States of America); CFC, chlorofluorocarbons; CIS, Commonwealth of Independent States; DOTS, directly observed treatment strategy; GDP, gross domestic product; HIPC, heavily indebted poor countries initiative; LDC, least developed countries; LLDC, landlocked developing countries; ODA, official development assistance; ODP, ozone-depletion potential; OECD/DAC, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee; SIDS, small island developing States; TC, transitional countries.

Notes

Given the limited space available, indicators for which no new data are available are not presented here, with the exception of indicator 32, Proportion of households with access to secure tenure, which is the only indicator to monitor the target. Also, indicator 14, Infant mortality rate, is not presented because trends can be assessed by the indicator on child mortality. The complete statistical annex, including all indicators used in monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, is available at <http://mdgs.un.org>.

Except where indicated, regional groupings are based on United Nations geographical regions with some modifications to create to the extent possible homogenous groups of countries for analysis and presentation. The regional composition adopted for the 2006 reporting of Millennium Development Goal indicators is available at <http://mdgs.un.org> under "Data".

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) comprises Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in Europe, and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Asia. "Developed regions" comprises Europe (except CIS countries), Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America. Developed regions always include transition countries in Europe unless the latter are presented separately as "transition countries of south-eastern Europe".

Indicator 1

^aEstimates by the World Bank in May 2006. High-income economies, as defined by the World Bank, are excluded.

^bCombined estimates for North Africa and Western Asia.

Indicator 5

^cData refer to the period 1993-1995.

Indicator 6

^dThe net enrolment ratios in primary education correspond to school years ending in the years displayed.

Indicators 8 and 10

^eData refer to the latest literacy estimates and projections released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics for the period 2000-2004.

Indicator 12

^fAs at 1 January 2006.

Indicator 19a

^gPercentage of young women and men aged 15-24 reporting the use of a condom during sexual intercourse with a non-regular sexual partner in the past 12 months among those who had such a partner in the past 12 months.

Indicator 19b

^hPercentage of young women and men aged 15-24 correctly identifying the two major ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one faithful, uninfected partner) who reject two common local misconceptions and who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit the AIDS virus.

Indicator 20

ⁱRatio of the current school attendance rate of children aged 10-14 both of whose biological parents have died to the current school attendance rate of children aged 10-14 both of whose parents are still alive and who currently live with at least one biological parent.

Indicator 26

^jThe figures from 1995 to 2005 are due to the establishment of a new large protected area in Saudi Arabia.

Indicator 27

^kData are not directly comparable with earlier series because constant price GDP has been rescaled to year 2000 international (purchasing power parity) dollars.

^lFigures are for years other than that specified.

Indicator 28

^mTotal CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels (expressed in millions of metric tons of CO₂) includes CO₂ emissions from: solid fuel consumption, liquid fuel consumption, gas fuel consumption, cement production and gas flaring (CDIAC).

ⁿBased on data provided by CDIAC.

^oBased on data provided by CDIAC. The 1990 rows show 1992 data for CIS countries.

^pBased on the annual national emission inventories of annex I countries (with the exception of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which are included under CIS) that report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; non-annex I countries do not have annual reporting obligations. In order to assess trends for annex I countries as a group, the aggregate figures for 2003 include data referring to a previous year for countries where 2003 data were not available. Data refer to 2002 for Poland. Emissions/sinks from land-use change and forestry are excluded.

Indicators 33a and 33b

^qData are preliminary and are for 2005.

Indicator 35

^rBased on only some 40 per cent of total ODA commitments from OECD/DAC member countries, as it excludes technical cooperation and administrative costs, as well as all ODA from Austria, Luxembourg, New Zealand and the United States that do not report the tying status of their official development assistance.

Indicator 40

^sPreliminary data.

Indicator 43

^tAs at March 2006.

Indicator 44

^uData are for 1994.

^vData are for 2003.

PART ONE

Political and security questions

International peace and security

The United Nations continued to strengthen its efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security. The Peacebuilding Commission, established in 2005 to improve the management of UN peace operations worldwide, was inaugurated in June 2006 and convened country-specific meetings on the situations in Sierra Leone and Burundi in October and December. The Secretary-General took steps to establish the Peacebuilding Support Office to assist and support the Commission, as well as the Peacebuilding Fund to support peacebuilding activities that directly contributed to the stabilization of countries emerging from conflict.

The General Assembly proclaimed 2009 the International Year of Reconciliation and invited Governments and international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support reconciliation processes among societies affected and/or divided by conflicts.

Acts of international terrorism continued unabated in 2006, including deadly attacks in Egypt, India and Iraq. In a series of statements, the Security Council condemned those attacks, underlined the need to bring the planners and perpetrators to justice, and urged States to fulfil their obligation to combat terrorism. In other action, the Council adopted further measures against Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their associates, and the General Assembly called on Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In April, the Secretary-General, acting in response to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, submitted recommendations for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to strengthen the capacity of the UN system to assist States in combating terrorism and enhance the coordination of UN counter-terrorism activities. The Assembly adopted the Strategy in September.

The United Nations continued to improve the management and operation of its peacekeeping missions. Following up on the recommendations contained in the 2005 report of the Secretary-General's Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeepers, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) developed a comprehensive strategy on sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel aimed at preventing misconduct, enforcing UN

standards of conduct and taking remedial action. DPKO also created a multidisciplinary conduct and discipline team at DPKO headquarters, in addition to teams established in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Timor-Leste, to develop policy, provide oversight of disciplinary issues and ensure the coherent application of UN standards of conduct. In May, the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly President a draft policy statement and draft comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN staff and related personnel. In December, the High-level Conference on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and NGO Personnel issued the Statement of Commitment on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation, by which senior leaders of UN and non-UN entities reaffirmed their determination to prevent and respond to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel.

The Organization maintained 12 political and peacebuilding missions and offices and 15 peacekeeping operations in 2006. At year's end, a record 99,355 uniformed and civilian personnel were serving in the field, compared to 85,000 in 2005.

The financial position of UN peacekeeping operations improved in 2006; expenditures increased to \$4,582.8 million, compared to \$4,074.3 million in 2005, a 12.5 per cent increase, mainly attributable to the full-year impact of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the expansion of operations in Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, and Haiti. Unpaid assessed contributions amounted to \$1.3 billion, compared to \$1.7 billion the previous year.

Africa

During 2006, the United Nations maintained its strong commitment to promoting peace, stability and development in Africa through six UN political missions and offices and seven peacekeeping missions, supported by some 60,000 military personnel. The Organization faced tremendous challenges in helping the countries in conflict situations and those in transition to post-conflict peacebuilding in Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, West Africa and the Horn of Africa to return to peace, stability and prosperity. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the United Nations Office for West Africa continued to bring a regional perspective to issues facing the continent, promote conflict prevention and raise awareness about subregional problems, in particular, youth unemployment and migration. The United Nations worked closely with the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development to assist African Governments in improving security, ensuring humanitarian access, energizing peace processes and promoting economic and social development.

Central Africa and the Great Lakes region continued to be affected by the activities of militias, local warlords and international companies illegally exploiting the region's natural resources, in violation of UN sanctions. In January, the Security Council, in a ministerial-level debate on the Great Lakes region, discussed improving cooperation between the United Nations and African organizations, such as the AU, particularly in peacekeeping and conflict prevention. At the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region (Nairobi, Kenya, 14-15 December), the region's Heads of State and Government signed the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. Meanwhile, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the four-year transitional process concluded with the successful holding of elections that led to the installation of the National Assembly and the inauguration of Joseph Kabila as President. The Security Council, in January, re-established the Group of Experts monitoring the embargo on the illegal exploitation of resources, as numerous violations of the embargo

had been uncovered. The peace process continued in Burundi, where the Government and the last major rebel group, the Palipehutu-National Liberation Forces, concluded a peace agreement in June, and a ceasefire agreement in September. Burundi, in view of significant improvements in the security situation, requested the United Nations to establish an integrated peacebuilding office, which the Council endorsed. One of the region's most devastating conflicts, opposing Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, came closer to a solution, with the signing on 26 August, in Juba, the Sudan, of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. To help the parties reach a comprehensive political solution to the conflict, the Secretary-General named former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano as his Special Envoy to help deal with the issue. The Central African Republic was increasingly drawn into the crisis affecting Chad and the Darfur region of the Sudan. Forces opposed to Central African Republic President François Bozizé appeared to have forged links with rebels fighting against Chad's President Idriss Déby Itno. At the same time, the crisis in Darfur had spilled over into Chad and the Central African Republic, with both countries accusing the Sudan of supporting armed groups increasingly active in their territories. The Tripoli Agreement signed on 8 February and the 26 July N'Djamena Agreement between the two countries did not defuse the crisis. The Security Council, in August, requested the United Nations Mission in the Sudan to establish a political and military presence in Chad and, if necessary, in the Central African Republic.

In West Africa, while progress was made in the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Liberia and Sierra Leone, the region faced other significant challenges, such as illicit cross-border trafficking, institutional weaknesses, slow economic recovery, difficulties in security sector reform, demilitarization, demobilization and rehabilitation of ex-combatants and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. The peace process in Côte d'Ivoire was impeded by political stalemates, disagreements and missed deadlines for the completion of crucial tasks, as well as violent demonstrations and inflammatory statements. Having missed the 31 October deadline for the holding of presidential elections, regional leaders extended the political

transition period for another year and addressed the ambiguities that had plagued the previous transition period. In Liberia, the inauguration of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first elected woman Head of State, and the installation of a new Government marked the completion of that country's two-year transitional process. The new Government tackled the issues of corruption and governance reform and took measures to enhance transparency and accountability. With the assistance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and other regional and international actors, the country made substantial progress in restoring its administrative authority over the entire country and in controlling all areas of economic activity. Similarly, events in Sierra Leone were dominated by efforts to further consolidate peace and stability and prepare for elections in 2007. The transition from the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone to the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, established to support the Government in consolidating peace, building national capacity and preparing for those elections, was successfully completed. However, youth unemployment, rampant corruption, dire economic conditions and tension along the borders, especially with Guinea, were potential threats to stability. A significant development during the year was the apprehension and transfer of former Liberian President Charles Taylor into the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown, and later to The Hague, the Netherlands, to stand trial. Guinea-Bissau continued to be polarized by political tensions, especially in the new National Popular Assembly. Dialogue initiatives aimed at reconciling the different factions and political groupings were launched, with the support of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries. The strained political situation even risked jeopardizing the disbursement of funds pledged by donors, as political stability was a precondition for such disbursement. The mandate of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau, which assisted in consolidating peace and promoting national reconciliation, was streamlined to highlight its mediation and good offices functions. Cameroon and Nigeria continued to cooperate peacefully to advance progress in implementing, through the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, the 2002 International Court of Justice ruling on the land and maritime boundaries between them.

However, the political landscape in the Horn of Africa was not so encouraging, as the region continued to be affected by complex, interlocking conflicts. While the Sudan took positive steps to implement the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agree-

ment, areas of the country were still plagued by armed militias, disagreements over borders, disputed oil revenues and the escalating crisis in the Darfur states. The crisis in the Darfur region continued to deteriorate, and although AU-mediated talks in Abuja, Nigeria, culminated in the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement on 5 May, only the Government and one of the Darfur rebel groups signed the pact. The AU, in January, endorsed a transition from its Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to a UN peacekeeping operation, which the Security Council approved in resolution 1663(2006) of 24 March. However, the Sudan did not support the idea, citing threats to its sovereignty. On 31 August, the Council expanded the mandate and increased the troop strength of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan by up to 17,300 international military personnel, to be deployed to Darfur. That was also rejected by the Sudan. On 16 November, agreement was reached on the deployment of a hybrid AU-UN force in Darfur. That was endorsed by the AU, Sudan's Council of Ministers and the Security Council. In Somalia, the year opened on a promising note, with the January signing of the Aden Declaration, brokered by Yemen, to end differences between the President and the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament. The Transitional Federal Government and Parliament relocated to Baidoa, 140 miles northwest of Mogadishu, and the Parliament held its first session in February. That same month, however, there was a dramatic shift in Somalia's complicated clan-based balance of power, with the emergence of the Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism (ARPCT), whose aim was to combat the rapid advance of the Union of Islamic Courts, accused of supporting and harbouring foreign terrorism suspects. ARPCT and Islamic Courts fighters engaged in fierce battles in Mogadishu, and by June, the Courts had routed ARPCT and established their authority in central and southern Somalia. A sense of law and order returned to Mogadishu for the first time in 15 years. By contrast, the Transitional Federal Government barely held control of Baidoa. The Courts expanded the territory under their control, taking the strategically important port city of Kismayo and had flanked Baidoa by late October. The Security Council, on 6 December, endorsed the request for a joint peace operation to be deployed by the Intergovernmental Authority for Development and the AU. However, the military build-up by both sides came to a head on 24 December, when skirmishes threatened the Transitional Government seat in Baidoa and provoked the full force of the Government, backed by Ethiopian troops. The

Courts militia retreated to Mogadishu, which fell to the Transitional Government/Ethiopian coalition on 28 December, and then to Kismayo, which fell soon after. Despite diplomatic initiatives by the United States and the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission, the Ethiopia and Eritrea stalemate in the demarcation of the border between them remained. The situation in the buffer zone, the Temporary Security Zone, and adjacent areas turned tense in mid-October, when Eritrean defence forces entered the Zone in Sector West. The situation was exacerbated by Eritrean restrictions on the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, including a continued flight ban on the Mission's helicopters, which greatly curtailed its capacity to monitor the Zone. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, which failed to advance its demarcation activities, announced, on 27 November, that, because of impediments in fulfilling its mandate, it planned to demarcate the border on maps, leaving the two countries to establish the physical boundary and to reach agreement on border demarcation within one year. If no agreement was reached, the locations established in its 2002 delimitation decision would take effect. Both countries rejected the Commission's proposal.

The deadlock in the search for an agreed political solution to the long-standing conflict concerning the governance of the Territory of Western Sahara continued, with no hope of an early breakthrough. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy intensified his efforts in exploring with the parties, Morocco and the Frente Popular para La Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), the best way to achieve a mutually acceptable solution. The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council call upon the parties to enter into open-ended negotiations without preconditions, rather than just extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

In other matters, Mauritius complained that, 38 years after its independence, it still was not able to exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia. The United Kingdom, maintaining that the Territory was British, reiterated the undertaking that the Territory would be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes and it would liaise closely with Mauritius at that time.

Both the Security Council and the General Assembly discussed the issue of cooperation between the United Nations and the AU. The two organizations signed a declaration entitled "Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the ten-year

Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union".

Americas

During 2006, the United Nations continued to advance the cause of lasting peace, human rights, sustainable development and the rule of law in the Americas. In Guatemala, following the 2005 establishment of a joint UN office for monitoring and reporting human rights in the country, the Government and the United Nations signed, in December 2006, an agreement to create an International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.

Although the political and security situation in Haiti remained challenging, significant progress was made in the democratic process, with the holding of successful national, municipal and local elections. With the support of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Organization of American States (OAS), presidential and legislative elections were held in February and April, and municipal and local elections in December, in a relatively calm manner. The new Government launched its long-term agenda for the modernization of the State and economic rebirth, as well as plans for improving living conditions in Haiti and reforming the Haitian National Police (HNP). In response to a request by the President for development support, a high-level delegation from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) visited Haiti and discussed prospects for the full integration of the country into that organization, including the common market. Despite the political progress achieved, the security situation in the country remained precarious. Demonstrations, outbreaks of violence and attacks by armed groups, particularly against MINUSTAH and HNP continued, and in some areas, increased. The Mission's mandate was expanded to accommodate its post-electoral role in Haiti, which related to HNP reform, ensuring a safe and stable environment and strengthening State institutions. In November, the HNP started the vetting process to assess the professional skills and disciplinary background of police officers. MINUSTAH supported the training and institutional development of the police. By year's end, some 10,650 HNP officers and civilian employees had been registered within a UN police database, which would also serve HNP.

In other developments in the region, the General Assembly again called on States to refrain from promulgating laws and measures, such as the ongoing embargo against Cuba by the United States. The

Assembly also considered activities undertaken by the United Nations to strengthen cooperation with CARICOM and OAS.

Asia and the Pacific

In 2006, the United Nations continued to face significant political and security challenges in Asia and the Pacific, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, as it sought to restore peace and stability and promote economic and social development in the region. In Afghanistan, further progress was made to advance that country's development and strengthen the rule of law. In that regard, more than 60 countries attended the London Conference on Afghanistan (31 January–1 February), pledging \$10.5 billion in new financial assistance. Participants adopted the Afghanistan Compact, a blueprint for action in the areas of security, governance, human rights, the anti-narcotics struggle and development. However, the year also saw an increase in insurgent activities, especially in the south, which hampered the ability of the United Nations and its partners to provide development assistance. In November, a Security Council mission to Afghanistan assessed the situation there and made recommendations for strengthening the country's governance institutions and addressing the security concerns.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a multinational force established by Security Council resolution 1386(2001), continued to assist the Government in maintaining security. In October it assumed responsibility for all international military operations in Afghanistan. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) continued its role as lead command for ISAF.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) continued to coordinate international humanitarian and development activities, assist the Government in building institutions and foster political dialogue. In March, the Security Council extended UNAMA mandate for an additional year. In December, the General Assembly, by resolution 61/18, called on the Government to continue to address the security and development challenges, with the support of the international community.

In Iraq, strides were made in returning the country to democratic and constitutional rule. In April, the Parliament elected Jalal Talabani as President, and a new Government was formed in May, headed by Prime Minister Jawad Nouri Al-Maliki. Nevertheless, sectarian and other violence continued, with an escalation of bombings, murders and kidnappings. The bombing of a Shiite Shrine on 22 February

ignited ferocious attacks between Shiites and Sunnis, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people. On 23 November, more than 200 people were killed in explosions in Baghdad's Shiite-dominated Sadr City district.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) continued to promote dialogue, advise the Government on developing civil and social services, foster human rights protection and legal reforms, and contribute to the coordination of development and reconstruction efforts. In August, the Security Council extended UNAMI mandate for another year.

The United Nations continued to follow up on issues relating to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the repatriation of the remains of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, the return of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, and compensation for losses and damage.

The United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) addressed the crisis that erupted in that country, as a result of grievances by members of the security forces. Clashes occurred between protesters and security forces in April and between the police and the armed forces in May. To restore order, the Government sought military assistance from Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Portugal. The Prime Minister was forced to resign in June, and the Secretary-General appointed a Special Envoy to promote negotiations. The international security forces, in cooperation with the Government and the United Nations, restored order. In August, the Security Council, which had scaled back its operation in Timor-Leste, was forced to establish a new missions, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

Following Iran's decision to resume uranium enrichment-related activities, the Security Council, in July, mandated a suspension of such activities and in December imposed sanctions against the country. Iran maintained that its nuclear programme was entirely peaceful and in line with its engagements under the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In response to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) multiple ballistic missile launches on 5 July, the Security Council, on 15 July, demanded that the country suspend such activities. After the DPRK informed the Council that it had conducted an

underground nuclear weapon test on 9 October, the Council, by resolution 1718(2006), imposed sanctions on the country. The DPRK maintained that such activities were merely defensive and were prompted by the hostile policies of the United States.

Mass demonstrations in Nepal in April forced the Nepalese King to restore Parliament and hand over power to an alliance of mainstream political parties. In August, the Secretary-General appointed a Personal Representative for Nepal to act as the senior United Nations political interlocutor. Negotiations between the Maoists and the new Government led to a Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 21 November, which ended a decade-long conflict that had killed some 13,000 people. The United Nations was requested to supervise the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides, continue human rights monitoring and assist in elections scheduled for 2007.

The United Nations also continued to assist Cambodia in setting up a tribunal to prosecute senior leaders responsible for crimes committed between 1975 and 1979; provide good offices for democratization and national reconciliation in Myanmar; and support Tajikistan in its peacebuilding efforts. It expressed concern over the 5 December military takeover in Fiji, and was requested to keep on the agenda the issue of the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa islands in the Persian Gulf.

Europe and the Mediterranean

The restoration of peace and stability in the post-conflict countries in the Europe and Mediterranean region advanced in 2006, as efforts to re-establish their institutions and social and economic infrastructure continued. However, a number of issues remained unresolved.

Led by the European Union (EU), the international community continued to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina to move towards full integration into Europe through the EU Stabilization and Association Process. The country adopted an EU integration strategy, its first long-term strategic document leading towards full EU membership, and made progress in meeting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Partnership for Peace requirements, which culminated in an invitation for Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the Partnership. In October, domestic authorities successfully carried out the country's first self-organized general elections since the war ended in 1995. The Security Council, in a November resolution, authorized Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the EU, to establish, for a further 12 months, a multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force) and welcomed the NATO decision to continue its presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continued to assist in the building of a modern, multi-ethnic society. The overall security situation in the province remained stable, allowing UNMIK to continue to monitor progress towards the fulfillment of the benchmarks set out in the 2004 Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan and the 2001 Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government, including transferring authority to Kosovo's domestic institutions. The year began with several leadership changes following the January death of Kosovo's President, Ibrahim Rugova, and with the opening of negotiations to determine the final status of the province. Increased efforts by the Provisional Institutions to reach out to minority communities, including Kosovo Serb communities with close ties to Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro), met with challenges throughout the year as relations with Belgrade deteriorated. However, significant progress towards European integration was made by the new leadership of

Kosovo in August when its Government adopted a European Partnership Action Plan. In November, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the future status of Kosovo announced that the presentation of the Settlement Proposal would be delayed until the end of January 2007 to allow for the holding of parliamentary elections in Serbia.

In a historic referendum in May, Montenegro voted to separate from Serbia. In June, the General Assembly welcomed Montenegro to membership in the United Nations.

Renewed efforts were made to end the stalemate in the Georgian Abkhaz peace process. During the year, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Georgia convened the first session of the resumed Coordination Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, which had not met since 2001. Senior officials of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General (France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States) continued to encourage dialogue on the basis of the 2001 Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competencies between Tbilisi (the Georgian Government) and Sukhumi (the Abkhaz leadership). A difficult and complex situation prevailed on the ground, however, with Abkhaz authorities claiming that Georgian forces had violated the 1994 Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (Moscow Agreement), and Georgia demanding the withdrawal of Russian peacekeeping forces from the conflict zone. Compliance with the Moscow Agreement and with Security Council resolutions 858(1993) and 937(1994) was monitored by the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and by a collective peacekeeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

No progress was made towards settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the occupied Nagorny Karabakh region in Azerbaijan. In December, Nagorny Karabakh held an independence referendum, the results of which were rejected by Azerbaijan, several neighbouring States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and its status remained uncertain at year's end.

Similarly, a 17 September independence referendum in the Transnistrian region of Moldova was rejected by Moldova and by the newly-formed Organization for Democracy and Economic

Development-GUAM, which consisted of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

In the Mediterranean, the situation in Cyprus remained unresolved. During an overview mission to the country in July by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders signed a set of principles and a decision on cooperation and began to meet regularly regarding issues affecting the day-to-day life of the Cypriot people. Despite such progress, serious tensions continued to exist between the two Cypriot communities. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus continued to cooperate with its UN partners and the two communities to facilitate projects of benefit to Greek and Turkish Cypriots in the buffer zone and to advance towards the goal of restoring normal conditions and humanitarian functions in Cyprus.

Middle East

Events in the Middle East in 2006 illustrated the magnitude of the instability in the region, the ever-widening divide between Israel and its neighbours, and the bleak chances for achieving peace and security. The kidnapping of Israeli military personnel by Palestinian groups and Hizbullah in Lebanon in separate incidents, the continued firing of Qassam rockets towards Israel and the strong Israeli military response and ensuing humanitarian crisis were major setbacks to progress made the previous year in rebuilding trust and breaking the cycle of bloodshed.

In Palestine, the hope that the democratic process there would lead to a revitalization of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) was dashed, following the victory of the Palestinian resistance group Hamas in the January elections and its adherence to its previously held positions regarding Israel and the peace process. The Middle East Quartet (Russian Federation, United States, European Union, United Nations) set out principles which the new PA Government had to adhere to, including the recognition of Israel and the acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, as well as the road map, against which future assistance to the Government would be reviewed. The PA President, Mahmoud Abbas, asked Hamas to form a government in February. Israel immediately halted tax revenue transfers, causing a severe financial crisis throughout the Palestinian territories. In April, international donor funding to the PA was suspended. The increased firing of Qassam rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel and the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier led to Israeli military action in the Gaza Strip. The Secretary-General dispatched a UN team, headed by Vijay Nambiar, to explore ways to defuse the crisis in the region. By the time a ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian factions was announced in late November, scores of Palestinians and Israelis had been killed and hundreds others injured. The Occupied Palestinian Territory also saw bouts of inter-factional fighting between the PA and Hamas supporters.

The General Assembly convened its resumed tenth emergency special session in November to discuss the item "Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". It adopted a resolution which called,

among other things, on the Secretary-General to establish a fact-finding mission concerning the attack against the town of Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip on 8 November and to report to the Assembly within 30 days. The Secretary-General reported in December that the mission could not be dispatched because Israel had not indicated whether it would extend the necessary cooperation. The emergency session reconvened in December and adopted a resolution on the establishment of the United Nations register of damage caused by the construction of the separation wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Middle East Quartet continued to promote the road map initiative as the best solution to the conflict. The road map, endorsed by the Security Council in 2003, aimed to achieve progress through parallel and reciprocal steps by Israel and the PA in the political, security, economic, humanitarian and institution-building areas, under an international monitoring system.

In Lebanon, hostilities between Hizbullah and Israel broke out on 12 July and continued until a UN-brokered ceasefire went into effect on 14 August, though the Israeli naval blockade of Lebanon was only lifted on 8 September. The conflict began with an unprovoked military attack by Hizbullah and the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers. Israel responded with air strikes and artillery fire on Lebanese civilian infrastructure, an air and naval blockade and a ground invasion of southern Lebanon. Over a thousand civilians were killed, mostly Lebanese, and approximately 1 million people were displaced. In an effort to end the hostilities, the Security Council, on 11 August, unanimously adopted resolution 1701(2006), which was approved by both the Lebanese and Israeli Governments, calling for, among other things, Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, and the deployment of Lebanese soldiers in southern Lebanon, with the assistance of an enlarged United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Lebanese army began deploying on 17 August and by the end of the year, for first time in over three decades, had deployed soldiers throughout southern Lebanon. Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanon on 1 October.

The United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIICC) continued to

investigate the 14 February 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 22 others. On 10 November, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Lebanese Government a draft agreement between the United Nations and Lebanon on the establishment of a special tribunal to try those responsible for the assassination. The treaty still awaited a formal approval by the Government and ratification by the Parliament. Following the 21 November assassination of Minister of Industry Pierre Gemayel, the Security Council invited UNHCR to extend its technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities in the investigation of Mr. Gemayel's assassination.

The UNIFIL mandate, which was expanded to include tasks related to resolution 1701(2006), was extended three times during the year: in January for six months, in July for one month during the Hizbullah-Israeli conflict in Lebanon, and until 31 August 2007. The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights was extended twice. The military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) were moved from their patrol bases and relocated within UNIFIL, following the 25 July killing of four UNTSO military observers.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continued to provide education, health and social services to over 4 million Palestinian refugees living in and outside camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as in Jordan.

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 General Assembly on the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in 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.

Disarmament

In 2006, the United Nations reinforced efforts to mobilize the international community for concerted and more intensive action towards overcoming current disarmament and non-proliferation challenges, including persisting differences among Member States, which limited progress in multilateral disarmament fora. To that end, the General Assembly declared the 2010s as the Fourth Disarmament Decade, following three previous decades that had covered the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, all aimed at advancing disarmament norms and measures. In related action, the Assembly continued to promote the idea of convening a fourth special session devoted to disarmament, the aim of which would be to define the future course of action on disarmament and associated international security questions, and enhance the gains made at the first, second and third special sessions held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively. In April, relative progress was made in settling some of the issues dividing Member States on disarmament questions, following the achievement of consensus within the Disarmament Commission on a work programme, which helped resolve a two-year deadlock and consequent suspension of its work. That breakthrough enabled the Commission to resume substantive meetings to consider recommendations for achieving nuclear disarmament and practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. Unfortunately, such progress eluded the Conference on Disarmament, which, despite 49 formal and 22 informal meetings, still could not achieve consensus on its programme of work, nor undertake any substantive work on its agenda items for the eighth consecutive year.

In June, the independent international Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, chaired by the former head of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, Hans Blix, transmitted its report to the General Assembly containing proposals on how to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction (wmds) (nuclear, chemical and biological). Determined to further reinforce existing institutional mechanisms for tackling international terrorism, the Assembly adopted, in September, a United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, based on earlier recommendations from the Secretary-General. Annexed to that Strategy was a plan of action, by which Member States resolved to

take measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring wmds. On 8 September, the growing movement to fortify the nuclear non-proliferation regime through the adoption of legally-binding agreements designating whole geographic regions as nuclear-weapon-free zones achieved marked progress, following the adoption of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. It was the fifth Zone of its kind to be declared worldwide and the first to be located entirely in the northern hemisphere.

However, the optimism generated by those encouraging developments was tempered by widespread anxiety following a 9 October announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it had tested a nuclear weapon, only a few months after having launched ballistic missiles capable of delivering wmd payloads. Similar concerns were raised by Iran's decision to resume research and development activities on its nuclear energy programme, as well as uranium conversion and enrichment. Alarmed by the potential threat which the actions of both States posed to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to regional and international stability, the Security Council, in resolutions 1718(2006) (see p. 444) and 1737(2006) (see p. 436), respectively, firmly condemned those activities and imposed an arms embargo and other sanctions against them.

Notable developments in the field of conventional arms control included the Assembly's resolve to begin exploring the possibility of an arms trade treaty, providing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the idea and to establish a group of governmental experts to examine the feasibility and scope of the proposed instrument and report thereon in 2008.

Member States also continued to deal with disarmament and international security issues stemming from the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, mostly within the framework of the Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 UN Conference on small arms. However, an opportunity for consolidating the gains made since then was missed when the UN Conference to Review progress in implementing the Programme concluded, in July, without adopting a final document, owing to dis-

cord among delegates on several small arms-related issues. Despite that setback, the Assembly continued to seek ways of advancing conventional disarmament. It adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary-General to establish another group of governmental experts to examine how to strengthen collaboration in confronting the problem of surplus conventional ammunition stockpiles. Meanwhile, the Group of Governmental Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to review the status of the UN Register of Conventional Arms proposed measures for strengthening its operation and future development, aimed at enhancing transparency in conventional armaments as a major confidence-building measure.

On 12 November, the international framework for tackling humanitarian problems caused by leftover explosives in a post-conflict environment received a boost from the entry into force of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) 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. At their Third Review Conference, States Parties to that Convention adopted a Final Declaration reaffirming their commitment to comply with the Convention's objectives, and a plan of action outlining specific measures for promoting its universality. The same month, the Sixth 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 adopted a declaration and a series of decisions and recommendations designed to strengthen its effectiveness.

At the bilateral level, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed negotiations with the United States on a new treaty to replace their 1991 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I) agreement, which had committed both sides to limiting to approximately 6,000, the number of nuclear warheads they could each deploy, and which was scheduled to expire in 2009. In a related development, the two countries extended for another seven years their 1992 Cooperative Threat Reduction Agreement, designed to prevent the proliferation of WMDs, and launched the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Both sides also continued to implement their 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (Moscow Treaty), for reducing the level of their deployed strategic nuclear warheads to between 3000 and 3500 by 31 December 2012.

Other political and security questions

The United Nations continued in 2006 to consider political and security questions relating to its efforts to support democratization worldwide, the promotion of decolonization, the Organization's public information activities and the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (October/November) had as its theme "Building capacity for democracy, peace and social progress". It adopted the Doha Declaration, which, stressing the need for systematic implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Conference and those that had preceded it, established an advisory board and nucleus secretariat to assist the Sixth Conference's Chair to take measures to guarantee appropriate follow-up. Representatives of Governments, parliaments and civil society committed themselves to strengthening their tripartite partnership within the framework of the International Conferences of New or Restored Democracies process.

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples continued to review progress in implementing the 1960 Declaration, particularly the exercise of self-determination by the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

During the year, the Special Committee organized a Pacific regional seminar in Yanuca, Fiji, as part of its efforts to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010). It also sent a Special Mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands, at the invitation of the Territory's Chief Minister, to assess the situation on the ground and provide information on how the UN system could provide development assistance. Following a referendum on 30 November, Gibraltar approved a new constitution. During the year, the New Zealand-administered Territory of Tokelau also held a referendum to determine its future status. While the referendum, observed by a four-member UN mission, failed to result in the two-thirds majority needed for a change in the Territory's status, Tokelau and New Zealand agreed to leave the referendum package on the table; a second referendum would be held in 2007.

The Committee on Information continued to review the management and operation of the UN Department of Public Information. At its April/May/August session it considered reports by the Secretary-General on UN public information products and activities in the four years since the reorientation of the Department in 2002. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library continued to focus on follow-up to the new strategic directions for UN libraries outlined by the Secretary-General in 2005, including an expanded role in improving knowledge sharing and internal communications within the UN Secretariat. Regarding the continued rationalization of the UN information centres network that began with the closure in 2003 of information centres in Western Europe, the Department strengthened the centres in Cairo, Egypt, Mexico City and Pretoria, South Africa, by reallocating three Director-level posts to them.

In a December resolution on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, the Assembly called on Member States to consider existing and potential threats in the field of information security, requesting the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be established in 2009, to study such threats and possible cooperative measures to address them. On the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, the Assembly, also in December, encouraged UN bodies, within existing mandates, to promote the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considered the implementation of the recommendations of the Third (1999) United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Its two subcommittees, one of which dealt with scientific and technical matters and the other with legal issues, continued their work. In December, on the Committee's recommendations, the Assembly established the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response to provide universal access to all countries and relevant international and regional organizations to space-based information and services relevant to disaster management.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation held its fifty-fourth session.

PART TWO

Human rights

Promotion of human rights

In 2006, the General Assembly established a new subsidiary body—the Human Rights Council—as the Organization’s primary mechanism for promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with Member States’ resolve at the 2005 World Summit to reform the UN system’s human rights machinery. The Council, based in Geneva and comprising 47 members, replaced the 53-member Commission on Human Rights, which had shouldered that responsibility since 1946. All Commission mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities were to be assumed by the Council, which would report directly to the Assembly and whose status and operation would be subject to review within five years.

The Council held its inaugural session in June, followed by two regular sessions to address substantive human rights questions and organizational and administrative matters. To facilitate the transition, the Council extended for one year the mandates and mandate-holders of all the Commission’s special procedures. Among them was the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which held its fifty-eight and final session in August and made recommendations on its successor in offering future expert advice to the Council.

The Council also initiated further institutional reforms to improve the operation of the existing framework for promoting and protecting human rights as a whole. To that end, it established three working groups: one to develop the modalities of a universal periodic review mechanism for monitoring Member States’ fulfilment of their human rights obligations; the second, to make recommendations for reviewing, improving and rationalizing existing Commission mandates and mechanisms; and the third, to provide proposals on the Council’s agenda, annual programme of work, methods of work and rules of procedure.

In July, August, November and December, the Council held special sessions to address the situations in the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories, Lebanon and the Darfur region of the Sudan.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to support, coordinate and strengthen the Organization’s human rights programme and related reforms. The High

Commissioner made proposals for reforming and improving the operation of the treaty body system. The Office drew up a Strategic Management Plan 2006–2007, the first of its kind, highlighting its priorities and the means by which it hoped to realize the vision of its future direction.

The year also witnessed the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, marking a significant progress in the United Nations efforts to combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In other measures intended to strengthen the legal framework for promoting action against racial discrimination, the Council established an Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate complementary standards, in the form of either a convention or additional protocol(s) to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in order to fill any gaps in its provisions and provide new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary racism.

International human rights law was further advanced in 2006 by the Assembly’s adoption in December of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Protection of human rights

In 2006, the United Nations remained actively engaged in protecting human rights, mostly through the activities of its main organs—the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council—and the newly established Human Rights Council, which assumed the functions of the Commission on Human Rights in the Organization's efforts to overhaul and reform its 60-year old human rights machinery.

The rights of vulnerable groups were especially advanced during the year by the General Assembly's adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol, intended to empower persons with disabilities to overcome societal barriers and to promote respect for their dignity. In further action, the Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and Optional Protocol, which deemed the phenomenon of systematic and enforced disappearance a crime against humanity and outlined legal obligations to enable States to combat it and protect potential victims. The legal framework for safeguarding indigenous peoples' rights was further fortified by the Human Rights Council's adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which outlined provisions for protecting indigenous rights relative to such crucial issues as self-determination, land use, territories and resources.

In continuing efforts to protect the rights of civilians in conflict situations, the Security Council, in an April resolution, condemned all acts of violence and abuses against civilians in such circumstances and demanded that all parties concerned comply strictly with their obligations under international law. On behalf of children trapped in similar situations of armed conflict and exposed to the risks of extreme human rights violations and abuse, the Council adopted two presidential statements reaffirming its commitment to the protection of their rights. In May, the Council's Working Group on children and armed conflict, established in 2005 to examine compliance with measures for ending the recruitment of child soldiers and other violations against children, began its work. In July, the pressing need to protect human rights in the face of potentially undermining

factors in conflict situations was further addressed by the Special Rapporteur on the prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons, Barbara Frey (United States), who outlined draft principles for addressing related challenges effectively. Similar principles and/or guidelines were issued or adopted to help advance the rights to adequate housing, water and sanitation, and to address, from a human rights perspective, the problem of extreme poverty, which remained a major theme within the context of economic, social and cultural rights.

Notable developments during the year focusing attention on the protection of key components of civil and political rights included the assessment of the United States detention facility in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, by four human rights special procedures mandate-holders, who recommended its closure based on findings suggesting the arbitrary detention of some of the inmates, which was promptly rebutted by the United States. On the positive side, international concerns about the continuing practice of torture by some Member States were relatively tempered by the entry into force within the year of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Progress was maintained regarding follow-up activities to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, at the request of the Human Rights Council, appointed five experts to study gaps in international instruments to combat racism, while the Assembly decided to convene in 2009 a conference to review the Programme's status of implementation. Underscoring the need to remain proactive in protecting human rights, the Assembly, in a November resolution commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, denounced it as among the worst human rights violations in the history of humanity, honoured the memory of the victims and acknowledged that its legacy had contributed to racism and prejudice. In related developments,

the Assembly condemned all acts of hostage-taking as unjustifiable, described it as a crime and demanded the prompt and unconditional release of all hostages. The Secretary-General announced the establishment of the Organization's outreach programme on the Holocaust, under the auspices of the UN Department of Public Information.

In 2006, the Human Rights Council and the subsidiary body it had inherited from the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, established new mandates for special rapporteurs to conduct studies on discrimination against leprosy-affected persons and their families; the implementation in practice of the right to an effective remedy for human rights violations; the accountability of international personnel taking part in peace support operations; and the legal implications of the disappearance of States and other territories for environmental reasons, including global warming. Special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts examined, among other issues, contemporary forms of racism; the rights of migrants; freedom of religion or belief; mercenary activity; the independence of the judiciary; extra-legal executions; allegations of torture; freedom of expression; human rights and terrorism; the prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons; the right to development; economic reform policies; corruption and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights; human rights and extreme poverty; the right to food; the right to adequate housing; the right to education; illicit practices related to toxic and dangerous products and wastes; the right to physical and mental health; violence against women; violence against children; the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; children affected by armed conflict; internally displaced persons; and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.

Working groups considered the problems of racial discrimination affecting people of African descent, discrimination against minorities, arbitrary detention, enforced or involuntary disappearances, the right to development, working methods and activities of transnational corporations, contemporary forms of slavery and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Human rights country situations

In 2006, human rights situations of concern, particularly regarding alleged violations and how best to assist and guide Governments and national institutions in combating them, were addressed by the General Assembly and the newly established Human Rights Council, as well as by special rapporteurs, the Secretary-General's special representatives and independent experts appointed to examine those situations. A marked escalation of armed conflict in the Darfur region of the Sudan, relations between Israel and Lebanon, and the situation in the occupied Palestinian Territories prompted the Council to convene four special sessions to consider each case. The first and third sessions, held in July and November, respectively, focused on the occupied Palestinian Territories, the second, in August, addressed the situation in Lebanon, and the fourth, in December, considered developments in Darfur. On each occasion, the Council established a high-level mission to assess or investigate the situation and report thereon. As a result of the situation in Lebanon following Israeli military action, the Assembly adopted resolution 61/154 condemning the violence and calling for international assistance to help rebuild the country and rehabilitate the victims.

In Myanmar, the Secretary-General's good offices in facilitating national reconciliation and democratization made relative progress, which encouraged the dispatch of a UN mission to the country to assess the situation and determine how to further help achieve an all-inclusive democracy founded on human rights and humanitarian norms. Building on that development, the Assembly, in resolution 61/232, called on the Government to end the systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to release all political prisoners promptly and unconditionally, including the National League for Democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and others, who had been held for many years. In similar action, the Assembly called for an end to violations and other situations of serious concern in Belarus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iran.

Also in 2006, the Council, its special procedures and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights strengthened advisory services and technical cooperation for advancing international

human rights principles and preventing violations in Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Timor-Leste.

PART THREE

Economic and social questions

Development policy and international economic cooperation

The global economy started 2006 on a strong note, with a number of major developed economies rebounding from the notable slowdown in 2005 and many developing countries maintaining the momentum of broad and solid growth. A measurable moderation in global economic growth was expected for the second half of 2006, however, with the annual growth of world gross domestic product at about 3.6 per cent, the same pace as in 2005, and marginally higher than projected at the beginning of the year. A number of downside risks were expected to weigh on the economy, namely large global imbalances, persistently higher oil prices, the cooling off in the housing sector in a number of countries and rising interest rates worldwide.

With uneven progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted by the General Assembly in 2000, and staggering levels of human deprivation, the Organization continued, in 2006, to focus on the global development agenda. Highlighting the nexus between achieving the MDGs and global economic stability and prosperity, the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on UN system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment proposed a series of reforms to enable the UN system to deliver better on the promises made in the 2000 Millennium Declaration, and reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

During the year, the General Assembly convened a high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001-2010. In the Declaration adopted by the meeting, the Assembly reaffirmed that the Programme of Action, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs in 2001, constituted a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership whose goal was to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the LDCs. For its part, the Economic and Social Council, during its high-level segment, considered the theme "creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its im-

pact on sustainable development". The Council's coordination segment was devoted to the issue of sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger. In other development-related activities, the international community observed the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and welcomed the observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005. Requesting the submission of a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the first UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) at its 2007 session, the Assembly recognized the contribution of the first UN Decade and noted interest in the proclamation of a second UN decade for the eradication of poverty.

Arising from the need to link the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society with the broader UN development agenda, the Secretary-General, in March, launched the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development to build on the work of the ICT Task Force, whose four-year mandate expired at the end of 2005. In other follow-up action to the World Summit, the United Nations Chief Executives Board endorsed the establishment of the United Nations Group on the Information Society. The Economic and Social Council decided to enlarge the membership of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development by including ten new members

The Commission on Sustainable Development, in overseeing the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, which reviewed progress in implementing Agenda 21, the action plan on sustainable development adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, focused on the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. It also reviewed progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action.

Regarding other countries in special situations, the Assembly decided to conduct a midterm review, in 2008, of the Almaty Programme of Action, adopted in 2003 by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Finance and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation.

Operational activities for development

In 2006, the UN system provided development assistance to developing countries and those with economies in transition, mainly through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the central UN funding body for technical assistance. UNDP income remained unchanged from 2005, at \$5.1 billion. Total expenditure for all programme activities and support costs in 2006 was \$4.8 billion, compared to \$4.4 billion the previous year. Technical cooperation funded through other sources included \$48.7 million provided through the programme executed by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, \$191.2 million through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), and \$25.6 million through the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

In 2006, UNFIP and the United Nations Democracy Fund were consolidated with Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach to form the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Office served as a gateway for new alliances and partnerships for the UN system to work more effectively with the private sector and civil society.

The Secretary-General, in April, reported on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the 2004 triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system. The report contained a matrix of steps taken and the results of specific actions against benchmarks and targets for the UN system as a whole. The Secretary-General recommended that the Economic and Social Council use the assessment of progress to lay out guidelines for the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review. In July, the Council asked him to focus the analysis for the 2007 policy review within the context of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Project delivery by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) dropped to \$706 million, 9.7 per cent less than the projected figure for the year. In May, the Secretary-General appointed Jan Mattson (Sweden) as UNOPS Executive Director. In line with reform measures proposed in the 2005 action plan to restore UNOPS financial viability, the Office relocated its headquarters to Copenhagen, Denmark, which became operational on 1 July.

In 2006, 7,623 volunteers working for the UNDP-administered United Nations Volunteers programme carried out 7,856 assignments in 144 countries.

In March, the UNDP Administrator reported on the implementation of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (2005-2007), which was endorsed by the UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Board in 2005. In June, the Board requested UNDP to further emphasize the Programme's multi-year funding framework driver of development effectiveness dealing with South-South solutions and to promote its further impact.

UNCDF completed a strategic review of its 2005-2007 business plan and used its conclusions to prepare a detailed investment plan for the 2006-2007 period. Consistent with UN reform initiatives, UNCDF continued to decentralize its operations and improve its efficiency and effectiveness. By April, the streamlining of UNCDF headquarters to focus on strategic functions and management was largely completed. In June, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board asked the UNDP Administrator and the UNCDF Executive Secretary to finalize the strategic agreement between the two bodies, setting forth the key elements of their strategic, operational and financial partnership.

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

In 2006, the United Nations, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), continued to mobilize and coordinate humanitarian assistance to respond to international emergencies. During the year, consolidated inter-agency appeals were launched for Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Great Lakes region, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Horn of Africa, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, West Africa and Zimbabwe. OCHA received contributions for natural disaster assistance totaling \$257.3 million.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Haiti continued to develop long-term programmes of support for those countries. Due to progress made in Burundi and the Ad Hoc Group's conclusion that the situation in the country would be better addressed by the newly established Peacebuilding Commission, the Economic and Social Council terminated the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in Burundi.

Efforts continued to implement the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, the 10-year plan for reducing disaster risks, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005. In line with the Framework, activities were also undertaken to strengthen the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Further progress was made in the development and implementation of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

During the year, the Economic and Social Council considered ways to strengthen UN humanitarian assistance coordination by implementing improved humanitarian response at all levels, including strengthening capacity, with particular attention to recent humanitarian emergencies. Implementation of the humanitarian reform agenda, which was initiated in late 2005, advanced following the Humanitarian Response Review. OCHA established the Humanitarian Reform Support Unit to support Humanitarian Coordinators, field teams and agencies in driving forward the reform agenda. The year witnessed the launch of the "cluster leadership approach", an initiative whereby humanitarian clusters or groups of humanitarian organizations

and stakeholders worked together to enhance the effectiveness of response, as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund, an upgraded cash-flow mechanism for the initial phase of humanitarian emergencies. The High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, established in response to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, presented a report entitled, "Delivering as one", which included recommendations relevant to the humanitarian reform agenda.

International trade, finance and transport

In 2006, world merchandise trade expanded at a rapid pace, with the volume of world exports growing an estimated 10 per cent, from 7.3 per cent in 2005. The strong growth of world trade, which was bolstered by broad-based import demand across a majority of economies, was, however, expected to moderate to about 7 per cent. The United States remained the major locomotive for world trade, with its demand accounting for some 13 per cent of the world total. Import demand in the European Union (EU) accelerated, reflecting a better-than-expected growth recovery in Western Europe, as well as in most developing countries and the economies in transition. Demand in the oil-exporting and mineral- and metal-exporting economies in Africa, Latin America and Western Asia grew at double digits, driven by strong consumption demand and demand for new production capacity and infrastructure. Demand for primary commodities also remained strong, owing in particular to the continued rapid pace of industrialization of China and India and other emerging developing countries.

The net transfers of financial resources from developing to developed countries increased from \$533 billion in 2005 to \$662 billion in 2006. The net transfers of financial resources from transition economies also increased in 2006, from \$112 billion to \$133 billion. The level of net private capital flows to developing countries and transition economies in 2006 were high in historical terms, although lower than that recorded during the previous year, with the financial-market turbulence in the second quarter of the year contributing to the moderation. Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, the General Assembly noted that developing countries as a whole continued to experience a net outflow of financial resources and, in that regard, requested the Secretary-General to analyse the reasons and consequences and to report thereon. The Assembly underlined the importance of promoting international financial stability and sustainable growth, as well as national efforts to increase resilience to financial risk and measures to mitigate the impact of excessive volatility of short-term capital flows.

In April, the ninth high-level meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton

Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) discussed coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the 2002 International Conference on financing for Development, and of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The Assembly decided to hold the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in the second half of 2008, and inter-governmental consultations in 2007.

In July, the multilateral trading system suffered a serious setback when a meeting of trade ministers from the G-6 countries (Australia, Brazil, India, Japan, the United States and the EU) failed to break the impasse in the five-year long Doha Round of international trade negotiations. The indefinite suspension of the Doha Round cast serious uncertainty on the status of the negotiations, which were expected to conclude in December, with a single undertaking among the 149 WTO members that would build on and deepen liberalization in WTO agreements and usher in a stronger focus on the development dimension. Expressing serious concern at the suspension of the negotiations and calling for their early resumption, the Assembly appealed to developed countries to demonstrate the flexibility and political will necessary to break the impasse and stressed that in order for the Doha Round to be concluded satisfactorily, the negotiations should result in the establishment of rules and disciplines in the area of agriculture.

At its twenty-third special session, the Trade and Development Board (TDB), the governing body of UNCTAD, conducted a mid-term review of the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus, adopted in 2004 by the eleventh session of the Conference (UNCTAD XI). TDB adopted an agreed outcome on the mid-term review, which, among other things, reaffirmed the work of UNCTAD three pillars of research and analysis, consensus building and technical cooperation. It also adopted agreed conclusions on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries 2001-2010; economic development in

Africa: doubling aid—making the “big push” work; and decisions on the review of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities and the timing of its 2007 session.

The International Trade Centre, operated jointly by UNCTAD and WTO, increased its delivery of technical assistance by 15 per cent to \$25.3 million.

Regional economic and social activities

In 2006, the five regional commissions of the United Nations continued to provide technical cooperation, including advisory services, to their member States. They also promoted programmes and projects and provided training to enhance national capacity-building in various sectors. All of them—the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)—held regular sessions during the year.

The executive secretaries of the commissions continued to meet periodically to exchange views and coordinate activities and positions on major development issues. In July, the Economic and Social Council held an interactive dialogue with the executive secretaries on the theme “The regional dimension of creating an environment conducive to generating full and productive employment, and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development”.

During the year, the Council endorsed the ECE workplan on reform and its revised terms of reference. The General Assembly welcomed ECA efforts to conduct a comprehensive review in order to reposition the Commission to respond better to the challenges facing Africa. Escwa approved in principle the establishment of an Escwa Technology Centre and adopted the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network. Its Ministers of Transport adopted draft declarations on road safety and transport, aimed at developing integrated intermodal transport and logistics systems. ECLAC asked its Executive Secretary to coordinate annual regional reports with other UN agencies, funds and programmes on progress made toward achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on hunger and poverty reduction, and to coordinate, in 2010, a regional inter-agency report summing up progress during the 2006-2010 period on all MDG targets. It asked its Executive Secretary to support the Montevideo resolution on shaping the future of social protection: access, financing and solidarity. The Council approved the admission of Japan as a member of ECLAC. In addi-

tion, ECLAC admitted the Turks and Caicos Islands as an associate member.

Energy, natural resources and cartography

The conservation and use of energy and natural resources continued to be the focus of several UN bodies in 2006, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, which commenced its second two-year implementation cycle on the theme: energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. The Commission considered energy for poverty eradication, energy security and efficiency and cleaner energy technologies, and reviewed progress in meeting the goals, targets and commitments of Agenda 21, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, in presenting the Agency's 2005 report, cited its emphasis on the role of energy for development, describing the energy shortage in developing countries as a staggering impediment to development.

The Fourth World Water Forum, under the theme "Local actions for a global challenge", adopted a Ministerial Declaration reaffirming the critical importance of water for sustainable development. The role of water in development was also highlighted in the second edition of the *World Water Development Report: Water, a shared responsibility*, and was the major theme of the *Human Development Report 2006*, "Beyond scarcity: power, poverty and the global water crisis".

The Seventeenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolutions on mitigating large-scale disaster, marine administration and spatial data infrastructure support. The twenty-third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names continued to support United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Environment and human settlements

In 2006, the United Nations and the international community continued to work towards protecting the environment through the application of legally binding instruments and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The ninth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/seventh Global Ministerial Environmental Forum considered, in the form of ministerial consultations, the policy issues of energy and the environment and tourism and the environment and a summary of the consultations submitted by the Governing Council President, entitled “United Arab Emirates Initiative”. The UNEP Executive Director elaborated a ten-point strategy to facilitate more effective and coordinated delivery of UNEP services and support within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

The first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in February. The Governing Council subsequently endorsed SAICM and requested the Executive Director to establish and assume overall administrative responsibility for its secretariat.

UNEP issued the final report of the Global International Waters Assessment, which confirmed that pressures from human activities had weakened the ability of aquatic ecosystems to perform essential functions, thus compromising human well-being and development. The Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests, set four Global Objectives on Forests and agreed to work to achieve them by 2015. The Council adopted a number of measures to strengthen the international arrangement on forests. The Assembly declared 2011 the International Year of Forests and 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity.

Donor countries pledged \$3.1 billion to the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to fund operations between 2006 and 2010. The GEF Council, the Facility’s governing body, endorsed the replenishment in August.

In March, the General Assembly elected Mr. Achim Stiener (Germany) as Executive Director of UNEP for a four year term of office.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued to support the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. It adopted a comprehensive and results-based approach to mobilize, guide and coordinate more effective and cohesive responses to the urbanization of poverty and social exclusion at the national and international levels.

In June, the Assembly re-elected Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (United Republic of Tanzania) as UN-Habitat Executive Director for a further four-year term of office.

Population

In 2006, world population reached 6.6 billion, as compared with 6.5 billion in 2005, and was projected to reach 9 billion by 2050.

UN population activities continued to be guided, in 2006, by the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the key actions for its further implementation adopted at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999. The Commission on Population and Development, the body responsible for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, considered as its special theme “International migration and development”. The Population Division continued to analyse and report on world demographic trends and policies and to make its findings available in publications and on the Internet.

The General Assembly, in September, held the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to discuss the multi-dimensional aspects of the phenomenon and identify ways to maximize its developmental benefits and minimize its negative impacts. Participants agreed that international migration could be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and destination, provided that it was supported by the right policies. Several meetings were organized in preparation for the Dialogue and to follow up on its conclusions.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued to assist countries in implementing the ICPD agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. In 2006, UNFPA provided assistance to 154 countries and territories, with special emphasis on increasing the availability and quality of reproductive health services, fighting gender discrimination and violence, formulating effective population policies and intensifying HIV prevention.

Social policy, crime prevention and human resources development

In 2006, the United Nations continued to promote social, cultural and human resources development, and strengthen its crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

The Commission for Social Development considered as its priority theme the review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006). It adopted resolutions on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and on the modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. The Commission also reviewed relevant UN plans and programmes of actions pertaining to the situation of social groups.

The Secretary-General reported on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, and on further initiatives for social development, adopted by the General Assembly's twenty-fourth (2000) special session.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities negotiated and adopted the final draft text of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was welcomed by the Economic and Social Council, and later adopted by the General Assembly.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its fifteenth session, focused on, among other things, UN standards and norms in crime prevention; action against transnational crime, such as kidnapping and trafficking in persons; strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa; technical assistance for prison reform in Africa; strengthening basic principles of judicial conduct; international cooperation against corruption; and follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The Secretary-General reported on the activities undertaken to implement the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade

(2003-2012). Concerned about meeting the goals of the Decade, the Assembly appealed to Governments to mobilize enough resources and called for increased investments in education. The Secretary-General also reported on the work of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the development of the academic and professional training programmes of the University for Peace.

Women

In 2006, United Nations efforts to promote the advancement of the status of women worldwide continued to be directed by the principles and guidelines of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the General Assembly's twenty-third (2000) special session (Beijing+5), which reviewed progress in their implementation. In July, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly an in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, which provided recommendations for making measurable progress in preventing and eliminating violence against women. During the year, both the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly adopted resolutions on violence against women. The Assembly also adopted a resolution on trafficking in women and girls. Progress was achieved in gender mainstreaming, with the October endorsement by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination of a draft system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women. In November, the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment submitted its report entitled "Delivering as one", which addressed gender equality and recommended the establishment of a new UN gender architecture, with an Executive Director at the level of Under-Secretary-General to head the new proposed office.

At its fiftieth session in March, the Commission on the Status of Women convened a high-level panel discussion on the gender dimensions of international migration, a summary of which was transmitted to the Assembly for its high-level dialogue on international migration in September. The Commission recommended to the Council for adoption draft resolutions on women and girls in Afghanistan, assistance to Palestinian women, and the future organization and methods of the Commission's work. It also adopted resolutions on women and children taken hostage in armed conflict; women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS; and the advisability of appointing a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women. In July, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution on the organization and working methods of the Commission.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women continued to focus on the implementation of its multi-year funding framework, which targeted goals in four key areas: feminized poverty, violence against women, the spread of HIV/AIDS and gender equality in democratic governance and in post-conflict countries. Efforts by the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Gender Equality resulted in progress in the areas of performance indicators for country teams and an action learning process to devise UN models for gender equality programmes.

In 2006, the United Nations continued to strengthen and revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). In May, the Executive Board considered the report of its Subcommittee on the Resource Mobilization Strategy on a proposed fund-raising strategy, which had been submitted by the INSTRAW Director as part of the continuing efforts to strengthen the Institute.

Children, youth and ageing persons

In 2006, the sixtieth year of its operation, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its work to ensure that every child received the best possible start in life; was fully immunized and protected from disease, including HIV/AIDS, and disability; had access to quality primary school education; and was protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination. In commemoration of UNICEF sixtieth anniversary, the General Assembly adopted a resolution commending the Fund for its work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other international development goals in the interest of children. The Assembly also held a plenary meeting devoted to UNICEF history and accomplishments.

Progress was made towards mainstreaming children's priorities into national policy. Of the 190 countries that had adopted "A world fit for children"—the outcome document of the General Assembly's twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children—177 were engaged in follow-up activities incorporating the goals contained in the document into their planning processes by developing plans of action on children's issues or integrating the goals into mainstream national development plans, or both.

UNICEF began the first year of its medium-term 2006–2009 strategic plan, focusing on the priority areas of young child survival and development; basic education and gender equality; HIV/AIDS and children; child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse; and policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights. UNICEF 2006 income increased by 1 per cent over 2005, with a low but somewhat improved ratio of regular to other resources.

Efforts continued to implement the 1995 World Programme for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. The Economic and Social Council considered the issue of the promotion of youth employment. In a resolution on the subject, the Council urged Governments to consider youth employment as an integral part of overall strategies for development and collective security.

In 2006, UN efforts to implement the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing included plans for its review and appraisal, to commence in 2007, under the theme "Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing". In

December, the Assembly called upon Governments to take a participatory approach throughout the Plan's implementation process and stressed the need for additional capacity-building at the national level.

Refugees and displaced persons

In 2006, the worldwide declining refugee trend was reversed as some 1.2 million new Iraqi refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic were registered. The number of persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) rose to 32.9 million, from 20.8 million in 2005. Of the total, some 9.9 million were refugees, 12.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 5.8 million stateless persons, and 738,000 asylum-seekers. Some 2.6 million returned to their place of origin and the remaining 1 million were forced migrants and others of concern.

During the year, UNHCR achieved success in some areas, but was thwarted by constraints in others. In addition to its core protection and assistance activities to refugees, UNHCR committed itself to shared humanitarian responsibilities under the inter-agency cluster approach, whereby it assumed the global leadership of the protection cluster and co-led the camp coordination and camp management cluster with the International Organization for Migration. Almost all continents witnessed at least some progress towards solutions to forced displacement. A total of 2.6 million refugees and IDPs returned to their homes, including almost 400,000 to Afghanistan and around 1.4 million in Africa. In Latin America, UNHCR supported the local integration of refugees and facilitated their self-reliance in urban and border areas. However, a number of new, renewed, accelerating or entrenched crises produced millions of new refugees and IDPs in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Ongoing violence in Iraq resulted in massive displacements, both internally and externally to Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, while the July/August war that erupted in Lebanon displaced 1 million Lebanese. The political instability and violence in Timor-Leste displaced 150,000 people, the breakdown of the peace process in Sri Lanka resulted in the internal displacement of 200,000 persons and a renewed crisis in the 15-year old conflict in Somalia caused thousands of Somalis to cross the border into Kenya. In the Darfur region of the Sudan, 2 million people were internally displaced by the end of the year, which adversely impacted neighbouring Chad. Rebel uprisings and cross-border raids caused disruptions to operations for 222,000 Sudanese refugees living in camps in

the east of the country and increased the number of people displaced inside Chad to 113,000.

Another issue of concern to UNHCR was the complexity of mixed migrations, especially the increasing number of people migrating by boat in the Gulf of Aden, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, along Africa's Atlantic coast and between Indonesia and Australia. A significant number of refugees were caught up in those flows. UNHCR made efforts to help States address the issue.

Despite an improved refugee protection environment, UNHCR continued to highlight the need for a clear framework for the exercise of the "responsibility to protect", particularly with regard to the situation of IDPs in the Darfur region, and emphasized the importance of preserving the institution of asylum, opposing all forms of refoulement and ensuring respect for international refugee law. In October, the UNHCR Executive Committee adopted conclusions on women and girls at risk and on the identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons, which included mechanisms and standards for addressing the protection issues of those vulnerable groups. Financially, 2006 was a difficult year for UNHCR. Austerity measures were put in place and the resulting cutbacks meant that some projects had to be delayed or suspended. During the year, UNHCR reassessed its mission and implemented structural and management reform. On 1 January, Erika Feller began her duties in the newly-established post of Assistant High Commissioner for Protection.

Health, food and nutrition

In 2006, the United Nations continued to promote human health and food security, coordinate food aid and support research in nutrition.

About 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of the year and an estimated 4.3 million became infected with the virus; approximately 2.9 million people lost their lives due to AIDS-related illnesses. *The Human Development Report 2006* noted that HIV/AIDS had driven human development into reverse across a large group of countries and was shaping the demographic structure of many African nations. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2006, continued to coordinate UN activities for AIDS prevention and control, developing an action plan for the UN system that specified 18 “key UNAIDS-deliverables” to effectively help strengthen HIV prevention. The General Assembly adopted a Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, committing world leaders to address the epidemic through much stronger national and international action, and designated a Voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing Day in 2007.

The World Health Organization (WHO) established the Global Malaria Programme in order to respond cohesively and strongly to the needs of malaria-endemic countries through a new strategic direction. It also launched guidelines for the treatment of malaria. In its 2006 update of activities and progress made in meeting the 2010 goals of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, WHO reported substantial progress in addressing the disease over the preceding few years. However, it concluded that effective coverage of malaria control interventions was inadequate due largely to funding shortages, lack of technical expertise and weak health systems.

WHO also launched a new global strategy to stop tuberculosis, while the Assembly designated 14 November as an annual World Diabetes Day, beginning in 2007, and proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation.

The United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, in preparation for the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week, scheduled for 2007, created formal working groups on fleet safety and infrastructure, and decided to work towards a new Assembly resolution on road safety in 2007.

The World Health Assembly agreed to the immediate voluntary implementation of influenza-related provisions of the revised 2005 International Health Regulations, which laid out the role of countries and WHO in identifying and responding to public health emergencies. WHO also released its strategic plan for addressing the disease.

As few major emergencies occurred in 2006, the World Food Programme (WFP) was able to focus on protracted relief and recovery operations. It responded to the May earthquake in Indonesia; natural disasters in Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador and Nicaragua; floods in Nepal; conflicts in Lebanon and Kenya; and the continuing crisis in the Darfur region of western Sudan, which claimed thousands of lives and destroyed many homes and livelihoods. WFP also distributed 4 million metric tons of food to 87.8 million people in 78 countries.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to implement the Plan of Action adopted at the 1996 World Food Summit for meeting, by 2015, the commitments to halve the number of undernourished people worldwide. In support of an FAO resolution highlighting the importance of natural fibres as a source of income for small farmers in low-income and developing countries, the Assembly declared 2009 the International Year of Natural Fibres.

International drug control

In 2006, United Nations efforts to strengthen international cooperation in countering the world drug problem were conducted mainly through the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Drug control activities throughout the UN system focused, in particular, on carrying out 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.

UNODC coordinated the drug control activities of UN organizations and delivered technical assistance and knowledge-based expertise to Member States. As the custodian of international conventions to counter the world drug problem, it assisted States in complying with the provisions of those conventions and supported INCB in monitoring their implementation. Throughout 2006, UNODC enhanced its policy dialogue with financial stakeholders, expanded its partnership network and continued to improve data and analysis made available to States and to strengthen the international drug control system through its global programmes and regional and country projects. The Office increased support for alternative development programmes and initiated activities aimed at mainstreaming efforts to combat illicit crop cultivation, including development-oriented drug control interventions within broader development programmes.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs—the main UN policy-making body dealing with drug control—recommended a number of draft resolutions to the Economic and Social Council and adopted resolutions on the follow-up to the General Assembly's twentieth (1998) special session on countering the world drug problem, the implementation of international drug control treaties, demand reduction and the prevention of drug abuse, and illicit drug trafficking and supply.

In July, the Council urged Governments to contribute to maintaining a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific needs and to preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opi-

ate raw materials. It emphasized the importance of mainstreaming alternative development into national and international development strategies and called upon States to adopt policies that promoted international cooperation, including in the area of alternative development, and to share their experience and expertise in the eradication of illicit crops. Noting the increased illicit cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan, the Council urged that country to maintain drug control among its highest priorities and to enhance regional cooperation. It welcomed the bilateral and multilateral support provided by the international community and its commitment to the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan. The Council also called upon States to combat the traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in accordance with the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: a Vision for the Twenty-first Century. In December, the Assembly adopted a resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem, which addressed guiding principles; international conventions; implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session; demand reduction; international cooperation in illicit crop eradication and alternative development; illicit synthetic drugs; judicial cooperation; data collection; countering money-laundering; and the UN drug control machinery.

INCB reviewed the implementation of alternative development programmes, highlighting best practices and models for increasing their effectiveness. It continued to oversee the implementation of the three major international drug control conventions, analyse the drug situation worldwide and draw the attention of Governments to weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance, making suggestions and recommendations for improvements at the national and international levels.

Statistics

In 2006, the United Nations statistical work programme was conducted mainly through the activities of the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division. In March, the Statistical Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution urging donors and the international and regional statistical community to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development; the Council adopted the resolution in July. The Commission also approved its multi-year work programme for 2006-2009.

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

PART FOUR

Legal questions

Chapter ;

International Court of Justice

In 2006, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered one Judgment, made five Orders and had 14 contentious cases pending before it. In a 26 October address to the General Assembly, the ICJ President underlined the role and importance of the Court and its contribution to the promotion and development of a unified international legal system. She emphasized that the Court, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, served as the Court of all Member States. The ICJ President noted that the sixtieth anniversary of ICJ provided an occasion for the Court to reflect on what it had achieved and areas where it could improve. She observed that, since the inception of ICJ, new courts and tribunals had been established to deal with a variety of international needs and it was gratifying to see that those courts and tribunals had regularly referred to the Judgments of ICJ with respect to questions of international law and procedure, thus acknowledging the authoritative nature of the Court's Judgments.

International tribunals and court

In 2006, the international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda worked towards completing their mandates, while the International Criminal Court saw the arrest and indictment of its first accused.

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) made significant progress towards accomplishing its mandate by 2010, by conducting multiple accused trials and implementing a number of reforms. In February, the Security Council amended the ICTY Statute, increasing the number of ad litem (short-term) judges from 9 to 12 and allowing for the appointment of reserve ad litem judges for certain trials of multiple accused. In March, the remodeling of the three ICTY courtrooms was completed, allowing for up to 18 accused to be tried simultaneously. However, a number of factors could affect the Court's ability to meet its completion deadline, most notably the status of trials referred to national courts in the former Yugoslavia and the critical issue of six outstanding fugitives.

During the year, 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) delivered six judgements and commenced four new trials. The Tribunal was on course to complete all ongoing trials by 2008 and all its work by 2010, depending on progress in current and future cases and on the availability of sufficient resources. In order to ensure continuity and ICTR ability to implement its Completion Strategy, the Council, in June, extended the mandates of 11 permanent judges whose terms of office were due to end in May 2007. In August and October, the Council also extended the terms of 18 ad litem judges.

The International Criminal Court (ICC), in its third year of operation, began its first proceedings against one accused and continued investigations into situations of concern in three countries. Five warrants of arrest were outstanding.

International legal questions

In 2006, the International Law Commission (ILC) continued to examine topics relating to the progressive development and codification of international law. It adopted the Guiding Principles applicable to unilateral declarations of States capable of creating legal obligations, which the General Assembly commended for dissemination. It also completed the second reading of draft articles on diplomatic protection, the first reading of draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers and the second reading of draft principles on international liability in case of loss for transboundary harm arising out of hazardous activities. The Assembly, in December, took note of the draft principles and commended them to the attention of Governments.

United Nations bodies dealing with international terrorism continued their work to combat the phenomenon. The Ad Hoc Committee established by the Assembly continued to elaborate a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In August, the Secretary-General reported on measures taken by 22 States, five UN system entities and six intergovernmental organizations to implement the 1994 General Assembly Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism. In December, the Assembly condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable and called on States to adopt further measures to prevent terrorism.

At its thirty-ninth session, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) finalized and adopted revised articles on the form of the arbitration agreement and interim measures of the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration. It also finalized and adopted recommendations regarding the interpretation of two articles of the 1958 Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. In addition, UNCITRAL approved the recommendations of a draft legislative guide on secured transactions, designed to facilitate secured financing, thus promoting access to low-cost credit and enhancing national and international trade.

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization continued to consider, among other subjects, proposals relating to the

maintenance of international peace and security, with a view to strengthening the Organization, and the implementation of Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country addressed a number of issues raised by permanent missions to the United Nations, including transportation and parking issues, acceleration of immigration and customs procedures, delays in issuing visas and travel regulations.

Law of the sea

The United Nations continued in 2006 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 to facilitate the work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

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. A ceremony to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Tribunal was held on 29 September at the seat of the Tribunal in Hamburg, Germany.

In May, a review conference in New York assessed the Agreement on the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, four years after it had entered into force, and made recommendations to strengthen its implementation.

PART FIVE

Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

UN restructuring and institutional matters

In 2006, the Secretary-General presented further reform proposals aimed at significantly re-orienting the management and operation of the Organization in the execution of its mandates. In a report entitled “Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide”, the Secretary-General proposed further measures to enable future Secretaries-General to carry out their managerial responsibilities effectively and to make better use of the Organization’s managerial and human resources. He also created a High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence to help find ways to effect a more coherent and effective response to the needs of Member States. In its report entitled “Delivering as one”, the Panel proposed a framework for a unified and coherent UN structure at the country level, with appropriate governance, funding and management arrangements in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, as well as a number of cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality and human rights. The Secretary-General also presented a report on the review, requested by the 2005 World Summit, of UN mandates, which addressed key challenges in the mandate generation cycle and made recommendations in relation to each of the Organization’s programme priorities.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly continued to identify ways to further enhance the Assembly’s role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency. The Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council considered ways to advance progress on Security Council reform. The Assembly also adopted a number of decisions for strengthening the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly continued its focus on administrative and institutional matters. It resumed its sixtieth session and opened its sixty-first session on 12 September; it also resumed its tenth emergency special session. Two high-level plenary meetings were convened, one on international migration and development (14-15 September) and one on the midterm review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (18-19

September). The Assembly admitted Montenegro to membership in the United Nations, bringing the total membership to 192, and granted observer status to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Security Council held 272 formal meetings to deal with regional conflicts, peacekeeping operations and other issues related to the maintenance of peace and security. The Assembly again took up the issue of expanding the Council’s membership.

In addition to its organizational and substantive sessions, the Economic and Social Council held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

United Nations financing and programming

The financial situation of the United Nations showed some improvement in 2006, although it remained fragile. Following the June assessment by the UN Controller that the Organization would run out of cash by mid-July, and at the request of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly lifted the \$950 million spending cap and authorized expenditure of up to \$3.8 billion of appropriated funds to avoid a budget crisis. By the end of the year, assessments issued had fallen by \$73 million and were lower under all categories, except for the capital master plan. Unpaid assessments reached \$361 million, compared to \$333 million in 2005, cash resources for peacekeeping activities totalled over \$1.7 billion and the debt owed to Member States stood at \$1 billion.

In December, the Assembly adopted revised budget appropriations for the 2006-2007 biennium of \$4,173,895,900, an increase of \$343,979,700 over the revised appropriation of \$3,829,916,200 approved in June and July. It invited the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed 2008-2009 programme budget on the basis of a preliminary estimate of \$4,194,726,800.

As part of his continuing reform efforts, the Secretary-General, in his report on investing in the United Nations for a stronger Organization, elaborated on further proposals for improving budget implementation and financial management practices.

The Committee on Contributions considered the methodology for calculating future scales of assessments for the contributions of Member States to the regular budget and for the apportionment of costs of UN peacekeeping operations, the assessment of new and non-member States and multi-year payments plans. In December, the Assembly adopted the scale of assessments for 2007-2009.

The Assembly also examined the proposed strategic framework for 2008-2009 and endorsed the proposed biennial programme plan for that period.

Administrative and staff matters

In 2006, the General Assembly continued to review the administrative functioning of the Organization and matters related to UN staff, including new reform proposals recommended by the outgoing Secretary-General. Those proposals, contained in a report entitled “Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide”, outlined reform measures dealing with, among others, leadership, service delivery, information and communication technology (ICT), governance and staff issues. The Secretary-General elaborated on those proposals in subsequent detailed reports. The General Assembly took action on them in resolutions of 8 May and 7 July. Regarding ICT, the Assembly established the post of Chief Information Technology Officer at the level of Assistant Secretary-General and decided to replace the Integrated Management Information System with a next-generation enterprise resource planning system. The Assembly also took action on the recommendations of the Steering Committee on the Comprehensive Review of Governance and Oversight within the United Nations and its Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies for improving UN oversight practices, including those of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

The Committee on Conferences examined requests for changes to the approved calendar of conferences for 2006 and 2007. The Department of General Assembly and Conference Management launched an information technology global initiative to identify a strategy that would lead to a standardized approach to decision-making and real-time access to data. In July, the Assembly approved the strategy for a phased approach to the capital master plan for the refurbishment of the UN Headquarters complex in New York. In December, it approved the plan, to be carried out from 2006 to 2014. It also approved a renovation of the Secretary-General’s residence in New York.

The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to further develop and implement a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations.

In December, the Assembly appointed Ban Ki-moon of the Republic of Korea as Secretary-General of the United Nations, effective 1 January 2007, to succeed the outgoing Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

During the year, the Assembly, through the International Civil Service Commission, continued to review the conditions of service of staff of the UN common system and adopted the Commission’s recommendations relating to mobility and hardship allowance; education grant; conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories, and of internationally-recruited staff in non-family duty stations; the base/floor salary scale; the Senior Management Network; and the level of children’s and secondary dependant’s allowance. The Assembly took note of the Commission’s decisions on the framework for contractual arrangements, and requested the Commission to consider the effectiveness of measures to promote recruitment and retention, especially in difficult duty stations, and to report thereon in 2007. Other Commission recommendations addressed by the Assembly related to gender balance, the level of hazard pay, identification of the highest paid national civil service, and the common scale of staff assessment.

The outgoing Secretary-General’s latest reform proposal (see above) also addressed human resources management. In his report entitled “Investing in People”, the Secretary-General outlined proposals for streamlining contractual arrangements and conditions of service. Other proposals addressed the recruitment system, staff mobility, career development, building leadership and the staff buyout scheme.

The Secretary-General also reported on: the conditions of service and compensation of members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunals; safety and security of UN personnel; strengthening accountability at the United Nations; the Management Performance Board; the United Nations Ethics Office; staff composition; the status of women in common system organizations; gratis personnel; the employment of retirees; consultants and individual contractors; a common payroll for UN system organizations; multilingualism; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund; travel and related matters; the review of the UN system administration of justice, including the management review of the Appeals process; the Office of the Ombudsman; and criminal behaviour and disciplinary action.

During the year, the Redesign Panel on the United Nations system of administration of justice, appointed by the Secretary-General to review and redesign the Organization's system of administration of justice, found the current system outmoded, dysfunctional and ineffective and recommended that it be replaced.