

English
Express

The Yearbook of the United Nations
Yearbook Express

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Express

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

YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 1989

Volume 43

Table of contents

Foreword	v
About the 1989 edition of the <i>Yearbook</i>	xiv
Abbreviations commonly used in the <i>Yearbook</i>	xv
Explanatory note on documents	xvi
Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization	3

Part One: Political and security questions

I. International peace and security	23
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 23: Implementation of the 1970 Declaration, 23; Enhancing international peace and security, 25. REVIEW OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS, 26. REGIONAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 28. PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF SMALL STATES, 31. FOLLOW-UP TO INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE (1986), 32.	
II. Disarmament	34
COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES TO DISARMAMENT, 34: UN disarmament bodies and their activities in 1989, 34; Comprehensive programme of disarmament, 40; Confidence-building measures, 41. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, 43: Nuclear arms limitation and disarmament, 43; Prevention of nuclear war, 47; Climatic effects of nuclear war, 50; Cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, 50; Strengthening the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, 54; Nuclear non-proliferation, 57. PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF OTHER WEAPONS, 66: Chemical and biological weapons, 66; New weapons of mass destruction, including radiological weapons, 70; Advanced technology, 72; Conventional weapons, 74; Prevention of an arms race in outer space, 79; Review Conference on the 1971 Sea-Bed Treaty, 81. REDUCTION OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES, 82: Disarmament and development, 86. INFORMATION AND STUDIES, 87: World Disarmament Campaign, 87; Disarmament Week, 89; Disarmament studies and research, 90.	
III. Peaceful uses of outer space	93
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND LAW, 93: General aspects, 93; Science and technology aspects, 95; Legal aspects, 97. SPACECRAFT LAUNCHINGS, 101.	
IV. Other political questions	102
INFORMATION, 102: Mass communication, 102; UN public information, 103. RADIATION EFFECTS, 108. ANTARCTICA, 109. CYPRUS QUESTION, 112: Peacekeeping and humanitarian	

assistance, 114. INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY, 115: Security Council, 115; General Assembly, 116. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, 118: League of Arab States, 118; Organization of the Islamic Conference, 120; Observer status for the Council of Europe, 121. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS, 121.

Part Two: Regional questions

I.	Africa	125
	SOUTH AFRICA AND APARTHEID, 125: General Assembly special session on apartheid, 128; General aspects, 131; International action to eliminate apartheid, 132; Relations with South Africa, 134; Situation in South Africa, 146; Aid programmes and interagency co-operation, 148; Work programme of the Special Committee, 150. OTHER STATES, 151: Angola, 151; Comoros, 154; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 155; Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India, 157; Relations between Mauritania and Senegal, 157. UN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, 157. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OAU AND THE UN SYSTEM, 158.	
II.	Americas	162
	CENTRAL AMERICA, 162: UN Observer Group in Central America, 166; Nicaragua, 168; El Salvador, 171. OTHER QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE AMERICAS, 172: Panama-United States, 172.	
III.	Asia and the Pacific	177
	EAST ASIA, 177: Korean question, 177. SOUTH-EAST ASIA, 178: Kampuchea situation, 178. WESTERN AND SOUTH-WESTERN ASIA, 181: Afghanistan situation, 181; Iran-Iraq situation, 184.	
IV.	Middle East	189
	MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, 189. PALESTINE QUESTION, 193: Proposed peace conference under UN auspices, 196; Public information activities, 198; Jerusalem, 199; Assistance to Palestinians, 200. INCIDENTS AND DISPUTES INVOLVING ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL, 203: Israel and Iraq, 203; Lebanon, 203; Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, 208. TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL, 211: The Palestinian uprising (intifadah), 215; Fourth Geneva Convention, 217; Deportation of Palestinians, 218; Palestinian detainees, 220; Israeli settlements, 221; Golan Heights, 223; Measures regarding educational institutions, 225; Economic and social conditions of Palestinians, 226; Palestinian women, 228. PALESTINE REFUGEES, 229: Work of UNRWA, 229.	
V.	Regional economic and social activities	243
	REGIONAL CO-OPERATION, 243. AFRICA, 244: Economic and social trends, 245; Activities in 1989, 246; Administrative questions, 255; Co-operation with SADCC, 255. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 256: Economic and social trends, 257; ESCAP activities in 1989, 259; Organizational questions, 261. EUROPE, 261: Economic trends, 262; Activities in 1989, 263. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 267: Economic trends, 267; Activities in 1989, 268; Co-operation between the UN and the Latin American Economic System, 271; Special plan of economic co-operation for	

Central America, 272. WESTERN ASIA, 272: Economic and social trends, 273; Activities in 1989, 274; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 276.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

I.	Development policy and international economic cooperation.....	279
	INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 279: Development and economic co-operation, 279; Economic co-operation among developing countries, 291. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS AND POLICY, 291. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 293. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 295.	
II.	Operational activities for development	300
	GENERAL ASPECTS, 300: Triennial policy review, 301; Financing of operational activities, 307; Inter-agency co-operation, 308. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 308: UNDP Governing Council, 310; UNDP operational activities, 311; Programme planning and management, 317; Financing, 321; Administrative questions, 326. OTHER TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION, 327: UN programmes, 327; United Nations Volunteers, 332. UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, 333.	
III.	Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief.....	334
	ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 334: Critical situation in Africa, 334; UNPAAERD activities, 336; Countries and areas in other regions, 342. DISASTERS, 345: Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 345; Disaster relief efforts, 346; Disaster prevention and preparedness, 354. EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE, 358.	
IV	International trade, finance and transport	364
	UNCTAD VII FOLLOW-UP, 364. INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 364: Trade policy, 366; Trade promotion and facilitation, 368; Commodities, 371; Manufactures, 374. FINANCE, 374: Financial policy, 374. TRANSPORT AND TOURISM, 382: Maritime transport, 382; Tourism, 384. PROGRAMME AND FINANCES OF UNCTAD, 384.	
V.	Transnational corporations	387
	DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT, 387. STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING, 388. COMMISSION ON TNCs, 388: TNCs in South Africa and Namibia, 389; TNCs and international economic relations, 390; Role of TNCs in the least developed countries, 391; TNCs and the environment, 392; Transnational services, 393. CENTRE ON TNCs, 393: Information system, 394; Joint units with regional commissions, 394; Research, 395; Technical co-operation, 396; Financing, 396.	
VI.	Natural resources, energy and cartography	397
	NATURAL RESOURCES, 397: Committee on Natural Resources, 397; Exploration, 397; Mineral resources, 400; Water resources, 401; Co-ordination of UN activities, 403. ENERGY, 403: Energy resources development, 403; New and renewable energy sources, 405; Nuclear energy, 405. CARTOGRAPHY, 406.	
VI.	Science and technology.....	408

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME, 408: Strengthening capacities of developing countries, 408; End-of-decade review, 409; Co-ordination and harmonization, 411. FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 411: UN Fund for Science and Technology for Development, 411. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, 413: Intergovernmental Committee, 413; Advisory Committee, 413; Centre for Science and Technology, 414; Co-ordination in the UN system, 415. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, 415: Draft code conduct, 415. OTHER QUESTIONS, 416: Social welfare, 416; Education, 416; International security, 416; Informatics, 416.

VIII. Environment 417

GENERAL ASPECTS, 417: International co-operation, 417; International conventions, 420; Regional and other efforts, 421. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 422: UN conference preparations, 422; Environmental issues, 426. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES, 430: Monitoring and assessment, 430; Control of harmful products, chemicals and wastes, 432. MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN, 438: Global climate change, 438; Terrestrial ecosystems, 442; Marine ecosystems, 446. ROLE OF UNEP, 449: Programme and other issues, 449; Finances, 451.

IX. Population and human settlements 454

POPULATION, 454: Third review of World Population Plan, 454; Follow-up to the 1984 Conference, 456; Proposed international meeting on population (1994), 456; UN Population Fund, 458; Other population activities, 461. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 465: Commission on Human Settlements, 465; Human settlements activities, 465; Human settlements and political, economic and social issues, 467; UN Centre for Human Settlements, 469; Co-ordination, 470; Financing, 470.

X. Human rights 472

DISCRIMINATION, 472: Racial discrimination, 472; Other aspects of discrimination, 477. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, 483: Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocols, 483; Self-determination of peoples, 486; Rights of detained persons, 493; Disappearance of persons, 501; Other aspects of civil and political rights, 502. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, 504: Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 505; Interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, 505; Right to development, 506; Right to food, 508; Popular participation and human rights, 508. ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 509: National institutions for human rights protection, 511; UN machinery, 512; Public information activities, 515; Advisory services, 517; International human rights instruments, 521; Electoral processes, 526; Regional arrangements, 528; Responsibility to promote and protect human rights, 529; International co-operation in human rights, 529. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, 530: Africa, 530; Asia and the Pacific, 538; Europe and the Mediterranean, 544; Latin America and the Caribbean, 546; Middle East, 553; Other alleged human rights violations, 556; Mass exoduses, 557; Genocide, 558; Other aspects of human rights violations, 559. OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, 559: Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 559; Rights of the child, 560; Youth and human rights, 570; Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, 571; Human rights and science and technology, 571; Human rights and the environment, 573; Human rights and health, 574; Human rights of the individual and international law, 575; Human rights and international peace, 575.

XI. Health, food and nutrition 577

HEALTH, 577. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 588: Food problems, 588; Food aid, 589. NUTRITION, 592.

XII. Human resources, social and cultural development.....	594
HUMAN RESOURCES, 594: Human resources development, 594; Education and literacy, 597; Research and training, 598. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 602: Social aspects of development, 602; Social progress and development, 605; Social welfare, 609; Institutional machinery, 614; Crime prevention and criminal justice, 615; Cultural development, 640.	
XIII. Women.....	644
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, 644: Implementation of the Nairobi Strategies, 644; Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, 650. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT, 652: Integration of women in economic development, 654; UN Development Fund for Women, 659. STATUS OF WOMEN, 660: Commission on the Status of Women, 660. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, 667: Convention On elimination of discrimination against women, 667.	
XIV. Children, youth and ageing persons	670
CHILDREN, 670: UN Children's Fund, 670. YOUTH, 682: Follow-up to International Youth Year (1985), 682. AGING PERSONS, 686: Plan of Action on Aging, 686; Elderly women, 692.	
XV. Refugees and displaced persons	693
UNHCR PROGRAMME AND FINANCES, 693: Programme policy, 693; Financial and administrative questions, 696. REFUGEE ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION, 697: Assistance, 697; Refugee protection, 711.	
XVI. Drugs of abuse.....	714
Convention against illicit traffic, 714; Drug abuse and international control, 717; Supply and demand, 724; Organizational questions, 729.	
XVII. Statistics.....	731
XVIII. Institutional arrangements	739
RESTRUCTURING QUESTIONS, 739: Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, 739; Restructuring of economic and social sectors, 741. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, 744: Co-operation with other organizations, 744; Work programme, 744. CO-ORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM, 746. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, 749: Work programmes of Assembly's Second and Third Committees, 749; International decades, 749.	

Part Four: Trusteeship and decolonization

I. Questions relating to decolonization	753
1960 DECLARATION ON DECOLONIZATION, 753. GENERAL MATTERS, 764. TERRITORIES UNDER REVIEW, 766.	
II. International trusteeship system	784
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 784: Conditions in the Trust Territory, 784; Visiting mission, 786; Hearings, petitions and communications, 787. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM, 787: Fellowships and scholarships, 787; Information	

dissemination, 787; Co-operation with Special Committee on decolonization, 787; Co-operation with CERD and the Decade against racial discrimination, 788.

III. Namibia 789

UN TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP, 789: Pre-operational aspects ('January-April 1989), 789; Operational aspects, 795. ELECTIONS, 802: Pre-election activities, 802; Election results, 804. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES, 805. OTHER UN ACTIVITIES, 809: Council for Namibia, 809; UN Fund for Namibia, 810; UN Educational and Training Programme, 811; System-wide activities, 811.

Part Five: Legal questions

I. International Court of Justice 815

Judicial work of the Court, 815; Other questions, 818.

II. Legal aspects of international political relations 820

Maintenance of international peace and security, 820; Peaceful settlement of disputes between States, 820; Draft code of crimes against peace and security, 823; Draft convention against mercenaries, 824; Prevention of terrorism, 828; Question of hostage-taking and abduction, 830; Marking of plastic or sheet explosives for the purpose of detection, 831; Draft articles on non-navigational uses of international watercourses, 831.

III. States and international law 832

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 832. STATE RESPONSIBILITY, LIABILITY, IMMUNITIES AND RELATIONS, 837. TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS, 834.

IV. Law of the Sea 836

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 836; Preparatory Commission, 838; Functions of the Secretary-General, 839.

V. Other legal questions 844

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 845: Strengthening the role of the United Nations, 845; Host country relations, 847; United Nations Decade of International Law, 848. INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION, 849: UN Programme for the teaching and study of international law, 850; Establishment of an international criminal court on drug trafficking, 852. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, 853: International trade law, 853; Legal aspects of the new international economic order, 855.

Part Six: Administrative and budgetary questions

I. United Nations financing and programming 861

UNITED NATIONS FINANCING, 861: Financial situation, 861; Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, 865; UN budget, 868; Budget for

1990-1991, 869. CONTRIBUTIONS, 873: Status of contributions, 874; Contributions from non-member States, 874. ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING, 875. UN PROGRAMMES, 877: Programme planning, performance and evaluation, 877; Joint Inspection Unit, 880; Financing of peace-keeping, 881. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM. 883.

II. UN staff matters 884

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, 884: International Civil Service Commission, 884. OTHER STAFF ISSUES, 891: Effects of restructuring, 891; Pensions, 898; Travelrelated matters, 901; Administration of justice, 902.

III. Other administrative and management questions 904

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 904. DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 906. UN PREMISES, 907: Conference facilities, 907. INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTERS, 908: Technological innovations, 908. UN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION, 910.

Part Seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

I.	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	913
II.	International Labour Organisation (ILO)	917
III.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	921
IV.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	926
V.	World Health Organization (WHO)	930
VI.	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WORLD BANK)	934
VII.	International Finance Corporation (IFC)	936
VIII.	International Development Association (IDA)	938
IX.	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	939
X.	International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	942
XI.	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	944
XII.	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	946
XIII.	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	949
XIV.	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	954
XV.	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	956
XVI.	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	958
XVII.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	960
XVIII.	Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (ICITO) and the General Agreement On Tariffs And Trade (GATT)	966

Appendices

I.	Roster of the United Nations	971
II.	Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice.....	973
	INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE Charter of the United Nations, 973; Statute of the International Court of Justice, 982.	
III.	Structure of the United Nations	987
	General Assembly, 987; Security Council, 1001; Economic and Social Council, 1002; Trusteeship Council, 1011; International Court of Justice, 1012; Other United Nations related bodies, 1012; Principal members of the United Nations Secretariat, 1014.	
IV	Agendas of United Nations Principal Organs in 1989.....	1017
	General Assembly, 1017; Security Council, 1023; Economic and Social Council, 1024; Trusteeship Council, 1025.	
V	United Nations Information Centres and Services.....	1027

Indexes

Using the subject index	1032
Subject index	1035
Index of resolutions and decisions.....	1074
How to obtain previous volumes of the <i>Yearbook</i>	1077

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

Following is the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization, submitted to the General Assembly and dated 12 September 1989. The Assembly took note of it on 17 October (decision 44/404).

I

1. Fifty years ago this very month, Europe was plunged into a conflict that eventually engulfed other continents and became known as the Second World War. As the event had been preceded by a similar one only a quarter-century earlier, it was a stark revelation of the destructive nature of the international system that prevailed at the time. The havoc it wrought moved all the then sovereign States to join and make a radical new departure in international relations. At the conclusion of the war, they founded the United Nations to give peace a more secure foundation.

2. How secure the new foundation is or is likely to prove in different contingencies has remained an open question through much of the intervening period.

3. There is no doubt that peace has gained a meaning and dimension that it lacked before—above all, the dimension of multilateral endeavour. No realistic view of human experience from 1945 to the present can ignore the transformation of the world scene reflected by the presence and working of the United Nations. It is under the auspices of the Organization that an international agenda encompassing all matters of common concern to nations has taken shape and a massive change in international life has been effected and, by and large, peacefully absorbed.

4. But there remained a gaping void—not an institutional one—at the core of the whole enterprise. Ambiguity corroded the answer to the central question of the strength and durability of world peace. Collective security became a hostage of the cold war. Because of this, no major issue of war or peace could be examined on its merits. Disputes festered; wars were waged by proxy; tensions became chronic. The imagery and rhetoric suggestive of an Armageddon entered the language of political discourse. The effect on the United Nations of the policies generated by this state of relations has been amply noted in previous reports. To put it mildly, it left the United Nations in a waiting position—waiting until common sense and the dynamics of the world situation would induce a return to the way of handling international affairs outlined in its Charter.

5. It has not been fully two years since we have begun to witness signs of such a return. The two major Power blocs have started an assiduous search for bases of stable peace between them. A growing determination on the part of the permanent members of the Security Council to work together has facilitated purposeful diplomatic effort towards the resolution of some of the long-standing disputes. In regional contexts also, approaches are being made and important initiatives taken to reconcile conflicting positions, or achieve a compromise between them. And there is a heightened awareness of a new generation of problems common to all nations.

6. The year under review has been largely a year for the consolidation and extension of those trends and efforts. I mentioned the negativities of the earlier phase to emphasize the scope and degree of the transition we are now witnessing. By its nature, this transition could be neither abrupt nor smooth. Problems that should have been solved years ago did not just remain unsolved because of differences between the major Powers: they became more complicated as subsidiary problems were added to them. But now, after years of frustration, they are being seriously addressed. That this means the end of the era of sterile confrontations that began immediately after the Second World War can be a helpful assumption. But

though easy to launch, it is the kind of assumption that can float only on a tide of confirmations.

II

7. During the year, the United Nations has been intensely involved in activities to bring peace to troubled regions of the world. In an increasing number of cases, its role has been, and is being, looked upon as pivotal to the settlement of problems that not too long ago appeared intractable. Indeed, the assistance of the world Organization is being sought as never before in its history. There has been a palpable change stemming from the recognition that, if there are to be lasting solutions to international problems, these must be based on universally accepted principles as laid down in the Charter. I cannot fail to record my deep gratification at this renewal of confidence in multilateralism and its agents. Today, at diverse points of the globe, representatives of the United Nations and its Secretary-General are engaged in the arduous tasks of peace and my own visits to different areas of conflict have vividly impressed on me the great degree of trust and responsibility placed in the Organization. That the expectations should be fulfilled and not defeated is a matter of the utmost importance to peace.

8. To bring independence to Namibia has been a fundamental objective of the United Nations and, for me personally, an unrelenting concern. The year has been one of major advance towards that goal. The establishment of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) on Namibian soil and the efforts under way to hold free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations constitute one of the most challenging and significant operations ever undertaken by the world Organization. Its success depends on scrupulous observance of all the provisions of the United Nations plan, the cease-fire arrangements and related undertakings. At the time of writing, there are still serious problems to be overcome. However, the multilateral efforts of the Security Council, the concerned parties and the Secretariat have brought us to a stage where, despite the many difficulties, past and present, the implementation of the plan for the independence of the Territory must be considered irreversible.

9. It bears repeating in this context that UNTAG, the military component of which does not have powers of enforcement, requires the full cooperation of the parties, all of whom must continuously respect their obligations and strictly adhere to the agreements and understandings to which they have committed themselves.

10. The overwhelming majority of the Namibian refugees who had registered for repatriation have now returned under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The voter registration process and the election campaign are now well advanced and special care is being taken to ensure that the elections are completely free and fair and that they take place under the effective supervision and control of the United Nations. A draft electoral law is currently the subject of active discussion in order to remove a number of unsatisfactory features; it will be promulgated only when the United Nations is satisfied with the text. The same is the case with the law relating to the powers of the Constituent Assembly. Other major issues that continue to require the most careful attention include the continuing presence in the South West Africa Police Force of former members of a counter-insurgency unit, who are now being confined to base; the complete dismantling of the command structures of the South West African Territorial Force; the release of any remaining political detainees; the assurance of impartial coverage of the elections by the media; and arrangements in the Territory for the period between the elections and independence. Each of those matters is being actively pursued by my Special Representative and is receiving my close personal attention.

11. The unique international collaboration that has been forged over the last few years, involving the

efforts of many parties, must be maintained until the process of bringing independence to Namibia through free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations is duly accomplished.

12. In the effort to close a decade of turmoil in the Central American region, the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have laid down concrete plans for the implementation of the goals of peace and democratization that they set themselves two years ago in the Agreement known as Esquipulas II (A/42/521- % 19085, annex). The monitoring of the electoral process in Nicaragua by the United Nations is under way with a view to ensuring its purity and transparency and thus contributing to national reconciliation. A reconnaissance mission is now in the region to prepare the basis for consideration by the Security Council of a proposal for the verification, by military observers deployed throughout the region by the United Nations, of compliance with the commitments that aid incompatible with Esquipulas II to irregular forces and insurrectionist movements shall cease and that the territory of one State shall not be used to attack another. The United Nations will also be undertaking broad responsibilities in all phases of the voluntary demobilization, repatriation or resettlement of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families. That major project may well require a military component and, in due course, the full use of UNHCR as well as other programmes and agencies of the United Nations system.

13. While the war rages on in El Salvador, accompanied by widespread suffering, it is to be hoped that new political developments will lead towards dialogue and reconciliation in that country as well. The unequivocal appeal from all five Governments issued at the recent summit at Tela, Honduras (see A/44/451-S/20778), must not go unheeded. The deployment of United Nations military observers throughout the region could provide a new opportunity to render assistance in those efforts.

14. The Security Council, in resolution 637(1989), has now given strong backing to the peace process, which entered into a new phase with the signing of the Esquipulas II Agreement. It has encouraged me to continue to lend my good offices, which I intend to do, and for which I will continue to consult with the Security Council and seek its approval as needed. States from outside the Central American region have an important role to play in assisting the States of the region in their endeavours. A sustained effort is required to ensure that irregular forces and insurrectionist movements in the region co-operate in the implementation of Esquipulas II.

15. The international community at large, and in particular the major donors to humanitarian and development efforts, have given considerable assistance in the early phases of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987 and 42/201 of 11 December 1987, pursuant to the request of the live Presidents contained in Esquipulas II. The time has now come to buttress the emerging peace by providing the massive support that the region needs to overcome its age-old problems. Similarly, we may well have reached the stage where the plans laid down at the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at Guatemala City in May 1989, can be put into effect, but these will also require substantial additional support. It is through those efforts in the development and humanitarian fields that the vast number of refugees and displaced persons in this beleaguered region will feel that they have a true stake in peace.

16. Following a number of encouraging developments that had taken place earlier this year, a conference on Cambodia was convened in Paris last month at the initiative of the Government of France. While the Conference succeeded in working out various elements of a comprehensive settlement, certain substantive political issues stood in the way of the total package needed to bring back to the Khmer people the stable peace that they desperately need after two decades of intense suffering, war and destruction.

17. I believe that attention should be focused now on preventing a recurrence of lighting, with its readily

foreseeable consequences and the uncertainty it implies for all concerned. The follow-up mechanism established by the Paris Conference, under the leadership of the French and the Indonesian Co-Chairmen, offers some hope, however, for the continuation of the diplomatic process and for the reconvening of the Conference. For my part, I intend to continue the efforts I have made in the exercise of my good offices.

18. In recent months, there have been further constructive developments towards ending the 14-year-old dispute in Western Sahara. Although in August 1988 the parties signified their acceptance, with some remarks and comments, of the peace plan presented to them by the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and myself, practical discussions as to its implementation were required. Following a recent tour of the region, I proposed that a technical commission be established at United Nations Headquarters to work out the details of the implementation of the settlement plan. That proposal was accepted and the first meeting of the commission took place in July. During these meetings, which include representatives of the two parties to the conflict, the Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, clarification of the arrangements and modalities for the implementation of the peace plan is being provided by the United Nations. The meetings also allow the two parties to express their concerns on each step of the process. A number of sensitive issues remain, which will require the active involvement on a continuing basis of the Chairman of OAU and myself.

19. Despite the conclusion at Geneva, on 14 April 1988, of the Agreements on the Settlement of the Situation relating to Afghanistan and the unanimous adoption of General Assembly resolution 43/20 on 3 November 1988, the suffering of the people of Afghanistan has not yet been brought to an end. The total withdrawal of foreign troops, which took place in February, was a major step towards a peaceful settlement; further progress requires, however, the full implementation of all parts of the Agreements as well as of the Assembly resolution. There has been an escalation in fighting, with massive infusion of war matériel. In the current circumstances, the programme of the United Nations to render humanitarian assistance has, despite every effort, been severely impeded.

20. The problem relating to Afghanistan cannot be solved except by political means. For this, a consensus is needed at both the international and the national levels. While such a consensus has not yet emerged, efforts are under way to narrow the gulf between the positions taken by the countries neighbouring Afghanistan and other concerned countries. In addition, however, there is a fundamental need for a structure through which the wishes of the various segments of the people of Afghanistan can be validly expressed. In pursuance of the mandate entrusted to me by the General Assembly, I shall persevere in my efforts during the months ahead.

21. On 20 August 1988, fighting stopped between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, and United Nations military observers took up the challenge of monitoring compliance with the cease-fire, which, one year later, remains in place.

22. While the heavy toll in human lives has thus come to an end, this has been only the beginning of the implementation of Security Council resolution 598(1987). The other steps called for in that resolution towards the restoration of security and stability in the region have yet to be taken. For over a year, my Personal Representative and I have held several inconclusive rounds of direct talks with the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, as agreed on 8 August 1988, and presented suggestions to facilitate the fulfilment of the resolution in a manner that would generate mutual confidence. Eight years of sanguinary war have resulted in deep mistrust. The question we, therefore, continue to face is how to secure the implementation of a unanimously adopted and mandatory resolution in such circumstances. Lasting peace in the region depends on a way being found to achieve that objective.

23. Since my last annual report, the search for a solution to the Cyprus question has been particularly active. For the first time in the 25-year history of the problem, the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and

Turkish Cypriot communities have personally committed themselves to a sustained effort to achieve an overall settlement. To that end, and in line with my initiative in August 1988, my Special Representative in Cyprus has hosted regular meetings between the two leaders since September 1988. They also met with me at United Nations Headquarters in November 1988 and April and June 1989 in order to review the results achieved and agree on how to proceed. Those discussions have been useful in revealing possible options for resolving the issues that comprise the Cyprus problem. While I do not wish to minimize the difficulties and distrust that remain to be overcome, I believe that we have now reached the critical juncture where an overall settlement that will safeguard the legitimate interests and meet the concerns of both communities seems possible. I shall, in keeping with the mandate of good offices entrusted to me by the Security Council, continue to make every conceivable effort to help the two sides seize the opportunity that could now be within their grasp.

24. Progress towards resolving the outstanding issues relating to the situation in Korea depends on sustained dialogue between North and South Korea. The conciliatory atmosphere around the world and the urge to settle problems that are the legacies of former conflicts will, I hope, facilitate an amicable solution of differences between the two sides. I remain available to render whatever assistance the two Governments may desire towards this end.

25. The eradication of the unjust and anachronistic system of apartheid in South Africa has been a prime responsibility and a universally acknowledged goal of the United Nations. The positive turn of events in Namibia and a political climate conducive to the resolution of regional problems should encourage the prospects of fundamental change in South Africa. It is clear that a mere dilution or softening of apartheid will not answer the expectations of the majority of the people of South Africa or of the world as a whole. The United Nations has indicated the steps that the Government of South Africa must take to create an appropriate atmosphere for a national dialogue with the genuine representatives of the majority in order to set in motion a democratic process aimed at shaping the political future of the country. These measures include the release of all political prisoners, the lifting of restrictions on political organizations and individuals, the restoration of freedom of speech and movement and the ending of all other manifestations of the state of emergency.

26. The General Assembly will devote a special session to this issue in December. I would appeal to the Government of South Africa to frame a positive and credible response to the unequivocal call for the dismantlement of apartheid. The opportunity has arrived for it to chart a courageous new course that will allay all fears about its intent and put an end, once and for all, to the oppression and violence that the system of institutionalized racial discrimination and minority rule inevitably entails.

27. The situation in the Middle East remains a source of profound and intense concern, not only because of the political principles and issues at stake, but also because of the widespread human suffering caused by the failure to resolve those issues. Hopes for early progress in the peace process, which were encouraged by the diplomatic momentum following the decisions taken by the Palestinian National Council at Algiers in November 1988, and at Geneva a month later, have sadly given way to mistrust and doubt among the parties concerned. Bilateral efforts to promote a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians have thus far been unsuccessful. My constant attempts to pave the way to an effective negotiating process, which have included repeated contacts at the highest level with the parties directly concerned and with the permanent members of the Security Council, have also until now proved frustratingly inconclusive. Moreover, I am troubled by recent declarations that, in effect, question the applicability of Security Council resolution 242(1967). Since its unanimous adoption, the resolution has been regarded as the corner-stone of any comprehensive settlement to be reached. Unless there is agreement on that point, it is unlikely that real progress will be achieved.

28. Meanwhile, the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories grows steadily worse, with hundreds of people killed and thousands wounded or detained since the beginning of the intifadah nearly two years ago. The Security Council has repeatedly called on Israel to abide by its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and I have voiced my deep concern that, despite the appeals of the international community, widespread violation of human rights persists. However, it is the political aspects of the problem that have to be addressed if an end is to be put to the confrontations that occur almost daily throughout the occupied territories. I would, therefore, remind all concerned of the urgent need for an effective negotiating process based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338(1973) and taking fully into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including that of self-determination. The longer such a process is delayed, the greater will be the difficulties in initiating it and the more explosive the situation can become.

29. The world is appalled by the steady disintegration of the institutions of government and society in Lebanon and by the resort to unprecedented violence by all the parties involved in the Lebanese conflict. On 15 August 1989, after an alarming escalation in the military confrontation in and around Beirut, and with the danger of even further involvement of outside parties, I requested the President of the Security Council to convene an urgent meeting of the Council in view of the serious threat to international peace and security. The Council met the same day and expressed its deep concern at the further deterioration of the situation and appealed to all the parties to observe a total and immediate cease-fire. The Council also expressed its full support for the efforts of the Tripartite Committee of the Arab Heads of State and appealed to all to support those efforts likewise. In accordance with the Council's statement, I am pursuing all appropriate contacts in liaison with the Tripartite Committee to ensure the fulfilment of the Council's intent.

30. I strongly believe that the international community bears a responsibility to ensure that the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon are restored. A Member State of the United Nations deserves no less.

III

31. With the extraordinary improvement of the international climate during the past three years, there has been a new demand-and a new enthusiasm-for peace-keeping operations. Four new operations have been set up, and at least three are at present being actively considered. The seeds planted in earlier, less clement years are growing and proliferating. The wide recognition of the value of those operations is reflected in the award to the peace-keeping forces of the Nobel Peace Prize last year. New ideas and new directions for peace-keeping are being discussed, both within and outside the United Nations.

32. All this is encouraging and promising. It is imperative, however, that we keep the peace-keeping situation under constant scrutiny so that the best use is made of the Organization's capacity and so that we develop this important and valuable activity in a positive and constructive way. There are three main areas that need to be kept under constant review: function, capacity and performance, and support.

33. As far as function is concerned, we seem to be moving into a number of situations where, although there is a connection with international peace and security, the peace-keeping action is mainly concerned with the situation within the boundaries of a State, instead of taking place on the borders between States or between conflicting parties. Peace-keeping operations are being called on for a wider range of tasks, including the supervision of elections and the monitoring of the implementation of complex agreements.

34. I believe that it is important to maintain a rigorous analysis of what the United Nations can, and

cannot, do, and how it should do it. Here the basic principles on which peace-keeping operations have always been based are a good guide for our actions: a workable mandate; the consistent support of the Security Council; the co-operation of the parties in conflict; the readiness of Member States to make available personnel and resources; a geographically balanced and representative force; an effective and integrated United Nations command; and adequate financial and logistical support.

35. The method of operation also needs to be kept under constant review. Until now, the use of force by peace-keeping operations has, with one exception, been permitted solely for self-defence in the last resort. We would be wise to stick to that principle. These are not, after all, enforcement operations. But I believe that the new and positive consensus, which for the first time animates the political role of the United Nations, also entitles us to consider how the strength and credibility of peace-keeping forces on the ground can be enhanced. Strength does not necessarily mean using force. Very often it means being strong enough not to use force. Before we embark on too many new and demanding ventures, I should like to see a serious discussion among Member States of the ways in which our soldiers in distant conflict areas can be given the means and the support to command respect and compliance with the decisions of the United Nations to a far greater degree than hitherto. The question of enhancing the credibility and authority of peace-keeping operations needs to be examined here at the United Nations by the Member States, and especially by the members of the Security Council.

36. Traditionally the personnel of peace-keeping operations have been overwhelmingly military. In Namibia we see a variant of that practice. With the multiplicity of functions now being discussed for peace-keeping, we would do well to consider new combinations of military, police and civilian personnel.

37. As regards capacity and performance, we have traditionally operated on a shoe-string in peacekeeping. With several new operations impending in different parts of the world, I am very conscious of our need to underpin our peace-keeping capacity here at Headquarters. I believe that Member States can also help-and some have done so already-by reviewing possibilities for earmarking stand-by troops for peace-keeping. I think we should also look at the training situation and see what can be done to enhance the degree of training for peace-keeping in national armies as a measure of readiness for United Nations peace-keeping duties. Rosters of available senior officers and staff officers might also be helpful in the future.

38. Support is inevitably the key to capacity and performance. The financing of peace-keeping has a long and not very creditable history. Many of the financial problems of the past had to do with political differences which are, I hope, no longer with us. None the less we still face a large and debilitating problem in relation to financing peacekeeping.

39. The truth is that the expense of peace-keeping is minimal by comparison with the costs-human, financial, military-of the alternative. Peacekeeping costs are infinitesimal by comparison with national military expenditures. And peace-keeping could be an important part of plans to reduce these national expenditures.

40. The current financial arrangements are not only dangerously limiting during the period in which a complex operation is being mounted; they also put an inequitable financial burden on troop-contributing countries. In addition, they tend to diminish the perception of collective responsibility, which is psychologically essential to peacekeeping operations.

41. I hope that Member States will address the financial problems of peace-keeping urgently and with imagination. A promising one among many possibilities would seem to be the establishment of a special reserve fund for peace-keeping, supported by all Member States. Such a fund would vastly facilitate the timely launching of operations mandated by the Security Council. Contributions to it, whatever its size, would, incidentally, represent a minuscule percentage of current national military expenditures.

42. Nowhere has the inadequacy of present arrangements been more evident than in the logistical support of United Nations peace-keeping operations. Here again the new political climate should allow a much freer exchange and more co-operation. In particular, I hope that countries with large and far-ranging military establishments will work together to see what can be done to establish a more reliable and responsive logistical framework for United Nations peace-keeping operations.

43. These are relatively short-term goals. For the longer term, we need to speculate on where peacekeeping fits into the underlying effort to build the international rule of law and a reliable system for the maintenance of international peace and security. When nations work together for those aims, as they now appear to be doing, the effect of representation and of symbolic presences is vastly increased. Peace-keeping is, and always has been, a dramatic way of representing the international will to peace and conciliation in the conflict areas of the world. If it is backed by an international consensus and sustained by a genuinely international effort, it can become a reliable and extremely important part of our broader effort to build a world at peace.

IV

44. Efforts to prevent possible conflicts, reduce the risk of war and achieve definitive settlements of disputes, whether long-standing or new, are part and parcel of a credible strategy for peace.

45. The United Nations needs to demonstrate its capacity to function as guardian of the world's security. Neither any alterations in the structure of the Organization nor in the distribution of competence among its respective organs are needed for that purpose. What is needed is an improvement of existing mechanisms and capabilities in the light of the demands of the unfolding international situation.

46. The prevention of armed conflicts is a mandate envisaged in the provisions of the Charter relating both to the Security Council and to the responsibilities of the Secretary-General. Article 34 speaks of any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute and Article 99 of any matter which in the Secretary-General's opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security. However, as has been repeatedly observed, it has been the general practice over the years to address a particular situation only after it has clearly taken a turn towards the use of force. Experience has shown that it is far more difficult to stop hostilities after their outbreak than to restrain Governments from heading towards the point of no return.

47. In order to activate the potential of the Organization for averting wars, the necessity of earlier discussion of situations threatening to explode needs to be clearly recognized. Timely, accurate and unbiased information is a prerequisite for that purpose. At present, the pool of material available to the Secretary-General consists of information provided by government representatives supplemented by the collection and analyses of published reports and comments. This is manifestly insufficient in cases where more than anticipatory diplomacy is required. Even for such measures as the establishment of observation posts or the dispatch of fact-finding teams, not to speak of the appointment of military observer missions in situations where fighting appears imminent, the Secretary-General needs to have at his disposal information that is dependable *prima facie*, even though it might be subject to further inquiry or verification. Only then can he be in a position to assess whether and when an issue needs to be brought to the attention of the Security Council under Article 99 of the Charter. The invocation of this Article is discretionary and the discretion has to be exercised with a most careful consideration of its possible outcome. There are situations where quiet diplomacy can be more effective in moderating a conflict. In any case, the lack or paucity of objective information can have most deleterious results. But in a setting in

which incipient conflicts are under a global watch there will be less likelihood of confusion and, therefore, of indecision on the part of the Security Council in the matter of halting their escalation. Arrangements, for instance, could be made to receive information from space-based and other technical surveillance systems, which would enable the Secretariat to monitor potential conflict situations from a clearly impartial standpoint, but the question is whether the potential of modern technology can be placed in the service of peace.

48. More importantly, the Security Council could meet periodically to consider the state of international peace and security in different regions. For such meetings sufficiently to guide and influence the necessary supportive diplomacy, it might be helpful to hold them at the level of foreign ministers and, when appropriate, in closed session. That simple expedient could help ensure that the United Nations would not be caught unready by developments threatening the peace. Where international friction appears likely, the Security Council could act on its own or request the Secretary-General to exercise his good offices directly or through a special representative. When appropriate, the Council could also enlist the co-operation of the concerned regional organization in averting a crisis.

49. It cannot be stressed too often that there is usually a point in an impending crisis at which the potential adversaries are readier to make concessions than subsequently they are apt to regard as surrender. Such points offer opportunities for multilateral diplomacy to be at its best in allaying the fears and suspicions that so often lead to belligerency. If difficulties arise at the first turn, it can use other means of contact and communication between the Governments involved. All this implies a conscious policy decision on the part of Member States to strengthen and use the mediatory capacity of the Organization.

50. It also implies a resolve to use the leverage that lies with the United Nations, particularly with the Security Council, in the form of the collective influence that it can bring to bear on a situation. The invocation of the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter is an extreme: in the intermediate stages of a party's obduracy against a settlement or against initiating a credible negotiating process to evolve a settlement, the United Nations can mobilize governmental and public opinion and also give salutary warnings of the consequences of a negative stand. Such warnings need not be public; in certain cases, they may be more effective if conveyed in private. However, they will fail to be persuasive if they are not backed, or are not seen to be backed, by the united will of the membership of the United Nations to avert a conflict. While a certain degree of partisanship among Member States on the merits of a dispute is unavoidable, and can even be suggestive of balanced solutions by exposing different viewpoints, there cannot be any division on the primary obligation flowing from the Charter, namely, the prevention of war.

51. To "settle international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered" is one of the principles set forth in the Charter. The conjunction of peace and justice is less liable to be overlooked by the conduct of multilateral diplomacy than by its alternatives. I am all too conscious how thorny is often the path leading to a just and lasting settlement and how hard is the resistance encountered. But I firmly believe that the United Nations can fulfil its mandate only if it is not daunted by the difficulties involved. By itself, the passage of time rarely brings about solutions to problems. The expectation of disputes ending through sheer attrition is certainly not supported by the experience of the Organization with regard to situations that involve issues of a fundamental nature such as the territorial integrity or political independence of a State or the self-determination of a people.

52. The United Nations can take credit for recommending the terms of equitable and comprehensive settlement of many disputes of this character that have been brought before it. However, nothing short of concerted or, at the very least, convergent action on the part of Member States, especially the permanent members of the Security Council, designed to bring about the acceptance and implementation of those terms, can suffice to resolve a conflict. Lacking such effort, the mounting of peace-keeping operations or

mediation can produce an illusion of calm, beneath which disputes fester and resentments grow, threatening new outbreaks of hostilities. The pain of conflicts needs more than palliatives.

53. Political and moral suasion, combined with a judicious use of leverage, has been the main basis of multilateral efforts aimed at the settlement of disputes. However, there are categories of disputes that lend themselves to settlement by other means. Article 36 of the Charter requires that “legal disputes should as a general rule be referred by the parties to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Court”. I warmly welcome recent pronouncements made in that context.

54. As legal disputes arise in various parts of the world over a wide range of issues, there may be cases where the parties concerned are prepared to seek settlement through the International Court of Justice, but cannot proceed owing to a lack of legal expertise or funds. There may also be cases where the parties are unable to implement a decision of the Court for similar reasons. Considering this, I have established a special voluntary trust fund, which, under certain conditions, will be used to assist developing countries that lack the necessary means for recourse to the Court or for implementing its decisions.

55. Moreover, there have been, and in all likelihood there will be, many disputes that have a clearly legal component; assuming respect for judicial opinion, a reference to the Court on that aspect of the issue could at least help make the whole dispute more amenable to solution. There are also cases that are arbitrable. International arbitration has been resorted to with benefit to peace in many cases during the existence of the United Nations but its use needs greater encouragement in all situations to which it is applicable.

V

56. Progress towards arms limitation and disarmament demands persistence and considerable hard work. Beyond this, as we have seen, it requires the stimulus and guidance that only inspired political leadership can provide. In one area of major importance in this field, all these have been in evidence in the past year. As we survey the entire scene, however, global stability and peace are still in danger. The steps towards arms reduction taken by the two militarily most powerful States and the proposals under consideration between the two major alliances present a marked contrast to the lack of comparable progress elsewhere.

57. No complacency is reflected in noting the credit side of the balance. It is apparent that, even when all their proposed reductions are achieved, the members of the two military alliances will still have far more weapons than all others together. Nor can the stresses and strains that exist in so many other parts of the world be ignored. But the fact remains that in areas where confrontation has been the norm for so many years, major changes in attitudes and perceptions are taking place and long-standing differences are being reconciled.

58. In this regard I warmly welcome the proposals that have been put forward concerning conventional arms reductions in Europe. Furthermore, over half the intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles affected by the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty) have already been removed and physically destroyed. To complement those actions with major reductions in conventional weapons and forces would signify a change of fundamental importance.

59. With the resumption of the bilateral negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons, the pursuit of a 50 per cent cut in these arms should occupy the centre stage of nuclear disarmament efforts. It is imperative that the momentum established by the agreement and subsequent successful implementation of the INF Treaty should not falter. The world

awaits a successful outcome on this issue. A slowing down and reversal of the vertical arms race would be all the more important in view of the forthcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons due to open at Geneva in August 1990.

60. At the Paris Conference on chemical weapons held in January 1989, 149 States unanimously called for early agreement on a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, transfer and use of chemical weapons-and on their destruction. This has intensified the effort being made in the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva to achieve a complete ban on those weapons. The problems still impeding the attainment of this objective, including the question of verification in particular, are complex and difficult but not insurmountable. Considering the horrifying prospect of the spread of these weapons, the present opportunity to agree on a complete ban must be seized. I strongly urge all concerned to demonstrate a concerted will to achieve that goal at an early date.

61. For several years I have called for action on two particular issues: nuclear tests and conventional weapons. Although no specific agreement has yet evolved on either, some constructive negotiations are now taking place bilaterally and regionally. These are encouraging signs. I remain convinced that significant additional restrictions on nuclear testing beyond the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water of 1963, leading progressively to a complete halt, together with major reductions in nuclear weapons, offer the best way to release the world from the fearful possibility of nuclear war. I hope that the Conference on Disarmament will soon be associated with the bilateral efforts on the nuclear-test-ban issue. These measures, supported by conventional arms reductions such as those now being negotiated at Vienna, would do much to solidify the growing sense of confidence and trust.

62. The issue of conventional disarmament is beset with many regional and local implications. Even so, if dangers to peace around the globe are to be overcome, one of the essential requirements is that means be found to regulate the transfer of arms. The need for action both within and outside this Organization towards this end becomes ever more pressing. Many developing countries are draining their economies to purchase highly sophisticated weapons. On their side, arms-producing countries are vigorously pursuing weapon sales and transfers to bolster their trade balances. Efforts at the United Nations, with the help of governmental experts, to introduce greater transparency into arms transfers would be a necessary first step in arresting this alarming trend.

63. Apart from arms transfers, the increasing sophistication of new weapons and their proliferation, due to wider knowledge of the technologies involved, aggravate the already existing difficulties. The spread of knowledge, not only of nuclear weapons, but of chemical weapons and missile technology, introduces another potentially destabilizing factor. It is important to ensure that a qualitative arms race will not follow quantitative disarmament. This presents the challenge of harnessing scientific and technological progress for humanity's benefit rather than for armed confrontations.

64. A quarter of the resolutions adopted each year by the General Assembly address issues of disarmament. This, of course, indicates the depth and continuity of the Assembly's concern with these issues; it also reflects the consideration that the United Nations should continue to be at the forefront of multilateral efforts in this field. However, the number of resolutions and a reiteration of old positions does not meet the demands of new circumstances. To give an example of the questions that need to be faced now, the United Nations will be convening a conference on conversion of military to civilian industries next year in Moscow. The magnitude and complexity of the issues involved in the multilateral disarmament process demand that we explore all avenues to strengthen the role of the United Nations in this field and make more effective use of its deliberative machinery.

65. By in-depth study and careful analysis, by providing objective data and stimulating informed

discussion, the Secretariat will play its part. It is also ready to undertake a role in multilateral verification of disarmament agreements, a subject on which a group of governmental experts has already been at work. However, the responsibility for action and leadership rests with Member States, particularly in addressing issues of specific relevance to their own regions.

66. With the new turn in the global situation, the broad objectives of arms limitation and disarmament, which were regarded as utopian, have begun to appear practical and achievable. But it is tangible progress towards these objectives that will lend permanence to the change.

VI

67. One of the most deplorable phenomena of current international life is the incidence of international terrorism. Calculated as it is to cause panic and disorder and to inspire and manipulate fear for the achievement of political ends, it violates human rights, and also lends a note of dangerous ambiguity to the dividing line between war and peace. It thus impinges directly on relations among States and shows how, thanks to the uncontrolled or indiscriminate supply of sophisticated weapons, organized violence is being increasingly privatized.

68. The firm and consistent position of the United Nations with regard to the prevention of international terrorism leaves no room for doubt or equivocation. Both the General Assembly, in its resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985, and the Security Council, in resolution 579(1985), have taken pronounced stands on the question. The resolution of the Council unanimously condemned all acts of hostage-taking and it was recalled on 31 July when the news was received that a senior official serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), had, in all probability, been killed following his abduction months earlier. By its resolution 638(1989), the Security Council reiterated its condemnation of all acts of hostage-taking and abduction and demanded the immediate safe release of all hostages and abducted persons wherever and by whomever they were being held. For my part, I have repeatedly condemned this inhuman practice and, as requested by the Council, I will continue my efforts to seek the release of all hostages and abducted persons. In this connection, I will maintain my contacts with all those who might be in a position to use their influence towards achievement of this objective and the prevention of further acts of hostage-taking and abduction.

69. The question of defining terrorism and investigating its underlying causes does not diminish the urgency of taking preventive measures. There may be varying perceptions of the threat but no country is guaranteed safety from the danger. It is in the interest of all to deny to the perpetrators of terrorist acts the facilities and instruments they use.

70. Six specific conventions related to international terrorism have been elaborated since 1969; they have at least curbed terrorist activity in some spheres. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has urged its member States to expedite research on means of detecting explosives and on security equipment. The work of ICAO is complemented by Security Council resolution 635(1989), which calls upon all States to share the results of such research and co-operation with a view to devising an international regime for the marking of plastic or sheet explosives for the purpose of detection. Such a regime would contribute significantly to safeguarding civil aviation and other potential targets. The problem is one that the United Nations will need to keep under continuous review until the time when the spill-over of political violence into the international domain will finally have been checked.

VII

71. To promote and encourage respect for human rights is not only a matter of legitimate international concern; it is also one of the main purposes and principles of the United Nations, as proclaimed by its Charter. Like every other purpose, it demands consistent pursuit, undeflected by considerations of short-term expediency. Like every other principle, it suffers discredit if it is selectively invoked.

72. Under the International Bill of Human Rights, consisting of the Universal Declaration and the two International Covenants based thereon, the international community has accepted the protection of human rights as a permanent obligation. A number of legal instruments have been adopted under the auspices of the United Nations that define fundamental rights in various contexts. Last December, the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment was added to this corpus (General Assembly resolution 43/173, annex). This year the General Assembly will consider two significant draft instruments: an optional protocol for the abolition of the death penalty and a draft convention on the rights of the child. Intense thought and effort have been devoted over recent years to the question of how to assure the rights of children, whom all societies and cultures look upon as humanity's most cherished and also its most vulnerable resource. This shared concern is reflected in the draft convention.

73. The elaboration of this considerable body of international law has been one of the main accomplishments of the United Nations in laying the foundation of a universal culture of human rights, transcending the differences among nations on account of ancestral traditions, systems of thought or belief, world-views and levels of social and economic development. The concern has been not only normative or theoretical, however: it has taken practical shape in efforts to secure adherence to the commonly accepted obligations in particular cases brought to the attention of the United Nations. This is done through examination of alleged violations, through public discussion in, and pronouncements by, the Commission on Human Rights and the various Sub-Commissions and, in certain cases, through confidential representations by the Secretary-General. Moreover, under a variety of legal instruments, mechanisms have been established for monitoring the observance of human rights. Currently, priority is being given to strengthening national infrastructures for the observance of human rights by providing advisory services and technical assistance. As greater awareness on the part of individuals is the key to assuring the protection of human rights, the United Nations, within the means available to it, is launching a world public information campaign on human rights.

74. Despite this effort towards the fulfilment of one of the main conditions of an international order of justice, sombre realities are facing us still. Nothing that has been done can lighten the burden on the human conscience imposed by the frequent, sometimes massive, violations of human rights in different parts of the world. The institutionalized system of racial discrimination in South Africa continues to be a most glaring example; in other areas also, the gross mistreatment of ethnic groups, the systematic practice of torture, the killings of unarmed demonstrators, the disappearances of individuals, summary arrests and executions furnish a most deplorable record. The year under review has brought little relief.

75. Such acts not only cause moral outrage; they also lead to political consequences injurious to the long-term interests of peace. If anything is writ large on current experience it is the truth that the stability of national and international society can only rest upon a foundation of assured human rights. Issues of human rights provide the deeper tones and shadings to political and social relations within and among nations. Governments, of course, have the right—indeed even the obligation—to maintain civil order and to use proportionate force in their territories against terrorism or other forms of violence. However, it is becoming increasingly plain that no Government can expect immunity from international exposure and criticism if it flouts human rights in trying to overcome political dissidence or ethnic unrest. The damage

done to the self-confidence of its people and to its international prestige may be ignored in the short term but it will not be negligible over the long run.

76. I must pay tribute here to the efforts of nongovernmental organizations and concerned individuals throughout the world who are championing the cause of human rights. Sincere efforts untainted by ulterior political considerations are bound to yield beneficial results.

77. The United Nations has done much to illuminate the interrelationship of peace, justice, freedom and human rights. But it is Governments that must realize this interrelationship in their laws and legal procedures. Far-sightedness on their part is required to help make a reality of what is meant to be a common condition of civilized life.

VIII

78. It is apparent from the current status of the questions relating to regional conflicts and to arms limitation that much ground is yet to be covered if the world is to move to conditions of lasting peace. Over and above these specific questions, the flux observable at many points of the political landscape is likely to present challenges different from those encountered before. Not only diplomacy but the attitudes of Governments will need to respond to these challenges in such a manner as to reduce disharmony and avert disruptions to peace.

79. The fact that there is now a fluidity in international relations, in marked contrast to the rigidity of the recent past, argues for greater care in handling the situations that may arise from time to time. In the first place, no change for the better in the political climate of the globe can be regarded as irreversible; to ignore the provisional element in it would be to lapse into complacency. Secondly, a movement away from entrenched positions holds no guarantee by itself that knotty issues will not arise which will need to be unravelled with a deft and high-minded approach. Thirdly, we seem to have reached one of those turning points in the evolution of international life at which personal contacts and greater ease of communication between the leaders of nations can play a larger role than they do in phases which follow a set pattern.

80. Apart from this aspect of world affairs, which affects diplomacy, especially of the most influential States, there is a ferment in large sections of the global society-and no policy on either the national or the international plane can be viable if it is based on a faulty diagnosis of the various causes of unrest. Whatever shape the turmoil takes, whether it be the assertion of ethnic identities or the demand for a better deal in political or economic terms, or even if it leads to upheavals within States, two requirements seem to be paramount: the stability of international relations must be preserved to the maximum possible extent and the universal standards of respect for human rights must be maintained.

81. At this critical stage, the mandatory principle of non-intervention by States in one another's internal affairs acquires added importance. Prudence and restraint will need to be fully employed to prevent internal upheavals in any State from becoming the cause of international conflicts. No State can, of course, insulate itself completely from the currents of information and opinion flowing in the world, but ultimately each national society must find its own equilibrium in accordance with its own genius. Considering the web of memories, perceptions, aspirations and cultural values that constitute national life, any forceful pressures from outside to give it a particular form can hold little constructive promise in the long run. More often than not, they provoke a reaction different from the one desired. I am conscious that no precise formula in terms of law or international ethics can be laid down in this context because definition in such matters can prove treacherous. However, the principles of the Charter do provide the necessary guidance.

82. If political wisdom and caution on all sides were needed at times of crises in the past, and did indeed serve to avert wider conflict, the kinds of situations that can arise in the future will make even greater calls on statesmanship. As myriad forces that shape the future become less and less manageable by Governments acting alone, States will need more and more to co-operate with one another and adopt practices and policies that will support the emergence and the consolidation of the rule of law. Certainly, the rampant violence that at present scars large parts of the world and the menace of terrorism from which no nation is immune cannot be overcome by recourse to methods contrary to international law.

83. The historic moment we have reached abounds with opportunities. If seized with an open mind, and with no intent to take advantage of any country's difficulties, they can lead us to a fruitful phase of international relations unrecognizable in traditional terms. By the same token, if they are misused, even the older civilities will not hold if the more vulnerable among societies around the world slide into chaos.

IX

84. The prospects of war or peace, regional or global, will no doubt always be the overarching concern of the international community. However, the state of the world economy and the possibilities it opens for sustainable development and social progress in disadvantaged sections of the globe also have major political implications. So, in an increasing degree, do certain social issues.

85. I would like to see the United Nations play a key role, as envisaged in the Charter, in promoting social progress and better standards of life for people throughout the world. This role becomes all the more important in the situation we are facing at present. There is an opportunity to extend to the economic and social spheres the same spirit of co-operation as has recently emerged in the political field. Indeed, the progress we have achieved in the global political climate can prove precarious if the economic climate remains adverse for the majority of the world's population.

86. During the past year there has been an apparent improvement in world economic conditions as world output and international trade in particular showed significant growth. However, the expansion of the world economy has not been even: some areas have enjoyed continuing prosperity while others are persistently plagued by depression and economic disorder. It would be inaccurate and facile to assume that the present lopsided growth patterns are due in all cases to inherent differences in underlying potential or to unsound policies. Nor should we expect these persistent imbalances automatically to correct themselves.

87. I remain deeply concerned about certain aspects of the current economic situation, particularly the widening economic and technological gap between the developing and the developed countries. The situation of the developing countries is being worsened by the continuing net transfer of resources to the developed countries. In much of the developing world, particularly in Africa and Latin America, most economies continue to stagnate if not regress, while in the industrialized world the central issue is the need to maintain inflation-free growth.

88. Debt remains a major constraint to the resumption of growth in many developing countries. It is clear that a common understanding on a solution to the problem of the external indebtedness of developing countries must now be reached quickly in the context of their growth and development. A review and strengthening of the current debt strategy is an urgent necessity. While the new thinking on debt in official circles is a welcome development, what is needed is a broad-based approach that includes substantial debt reduction. Every effort must be made to ensure that the measures taken are adequate and timely. Failure to find a just and equitable solution to the debt crisis in the near future can lead to a collapse of social and

political structures in many developing countries.

89. It is encouraging that the major industrialized countries have committed themselves to achieving substantial progress in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations in order to complete it by the end of 1990. These trade negotiations must lead to significant benefits and address the problems of the developing countries. Real progress has also to be made in alleviating the difficulties faced by developing countries that are dependent on commodity exports.

90. During the past year I have visited a large number of developing countries and I have been deeply impressed by the strenuous efforts they are making, often against formidable odds, for the welfare of their peoples. However, the external economic environment aggravates the difficulties they face in the process of adjustment. I believe that it is now essential to resume a broad-based North-South dialogue on international economic cooperation that takes fully into account the views of all countries. The special session of the General Assembly scheduled for early next year can provide an excellent opportunity for it. I trust that the session as well as the preparatory process for the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade will lend fresh impetus to thinking and action on international co-operation for development.

91. Discussions are continuing for the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social sectors, including the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. Although the Council has made progress in enhancing its effectiveness, what is required above all at this juncture is an increased commitment by Member States to utilize and support the Organization in its economic and social activities. Only thus can the full potential of the United Nations in this sphere be realized.

X

92. At the present stage of the evolution of global society, the impact of technology has radically altered the means and methods of production and communications and, in the field of health, made rapid strides towards enhancing life expectancy and reducing disease. This has constituted genuine human advance in diverse respects. However, it is ironical that, at the same stage, certain processes are bringing civilization to a crisis. I refer in particular to the deterioration of the natural environment, the explosive growth in the world's population and the emergence of a variety of social trends that are steadily gnawing at the fabric of society.

93. The United Nations perceived the coming of the environmental crisis years before the phenomenon became a matter of public debate and policy in individual countries. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, sought to address the question comprehensively. Now, with the possibilities of disastrous change in climate no longer dismissible, daily signs of an ailing and exhausted Earth are evoking universal concern.

94. Two trends in the matter of treating the planet's affliction are currently discernible. One of them is reassuring; the other can be cause for apprehension.

95. The positive trend stems from the increased recognition in all countries, from the most industrialized to the least developed, of the gravity of the problem and the urgent need to deal with it in a practical way. This has been highlighted by pronouncements made and initiatives announced at the highest level of the world's leadership. It represents a most welcome step forward and may well signify the birth of a new kind of loyalty, an Earth-patriotism, a looking at the planet and its atmosphere as an object for protection and not for aggression and pillage.

96. The cause for apprehension, however, is that Governments may adopt unilateral approaches that will lead to overlapping, duplication and waste of resources. The problem of the environment is *sui generis* in many respects; agreement about its gravity notwithstanding, different countries may have different perceptions of its implications and, therefore, different priorities. This underscores the need to evolve an integrated response and establish the forms of international co-operation that the situation so clearly demands.

97. The environmental crisis is manifested in many forms, ranging from the depletion of the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, global warming, desertification, land degradation and impoverishment of the Earth's biological diversity to the vexatious issue of the transborder disposal of hazardous wastes.

98. Since the emergence of the crisis, the United Nations has taken a number of steps to promote an understanding of the magnitude of the problem and to find means for arresting the degradation of the natural resources of our planet. The 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which came into force this year, prescribed the action to address the problem of ozone depletion. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal was adopted in March 1989. A joint United Nations Environment Programme/World Meteorological Organization panel is studying the pace and nature of climate change and its likely environmental and economic impact and will report to the Second World Climate Conference in 1990. The United Nations has launched a major study, which will address several key environmental issues, including its link with development. Moreover, United Nations agencies are now pressing vigorously to integrate environment and natural resources protection into development programmes.

99. Nevertheless, much still remains to be done. It is imperative that Member States frame coordinated plans of international action that will ease and gradually resolve the crisis. The responsibility, of course, is shared by all countries; but the industrialized countries have a special obligation to check and mitigate the damage caused to the global environment and to assist the developing countries in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development. There is also the need to address the question of the environment as a totality and to establish clear and equitable norms for the environmental behaviour of States through international law.

100. The proposed international conference on environment and development to be held in 1992, 20 years after the Stockholm Conference, will provide an occasion for developing a universal response in order to protect our planet for future generations. An opportunity lies here to redefine the relationship between man and nature and thus give a new turn to civilization.

XI

101. The current rate of increase in the world's population has most disturbing implications for sustainable development and social progress, especially in countries where larger increments still occur. Accompanying the explosive population growth is the rapid pace of urbanization in developing countries, making heavy demands on their ability to provide employment, housing, infrastructure and related services. One consequence is that the number of people living in absolute poverty, without adequate food or shelter, has increased at an alarming rate.

102. International efforts, including the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, will be crucial in meeting the challenge posed by the present population growth rates and the destitution in which people are condemned to live. At a time of vast expansion in the world's total wealth, the hunger and homelessness of millions remain a

rebuke to civilization.

XII

103. Throughout the world the pace of social change has so accelerated that the pressures on individuals and on basic social institutions severely constrain the effective operation of the agencies of civil order. Frequent incidents of lawlessness cause widespread fear and, for the individual, a haunting sense of insecurity. This new generation of problems affects the growth and preservation of civil institutions and the process of development generally. Moreover, since they easily cross the boundaries of States they affect the stability of international relations as well.

104. The internationalization of certain major social issues can, therefore, no longer be discounted. There is a growing realization that the social crisis affects all countries, even if in varying degrees, and that there is none among them which can regard itself as immune from danger. Essential as it is, therefore, jointly to devise and implement strategies to reduce and gradually to eliminate these new sources of disorder and potential conflict, it is also necessary to acknowledge that their roots lie deep in conditions of imbalance between the different components of society.

105. In recent years, the United Nations has been the catalyst for the adoption of a corpus of internationally agreed plans of action and guidelines that in fact provide the elements of a global social strategy. This encompasses the guiding principles for developmental social welfare policies and programmes, the strategies adopted at Nairobi for the advancement of women, global documents in the field of youth, disabled persons and aging, the results of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, as well as the recommendations of the United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Thus a set of principles and norms, together with operational guidelines, is at our disposal.

106. Drug abuse, the incidence of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and international crime have reached such proportions that a new sense of urgency is needed to deal with them. Each is of a nature that not even the most resourceful States can solve by themselves; each, therefore, underscores the need for nations to act in concert.

107. Illicit use and traffic of drugs is now recognized as a social plague afflicting both developed and developing countries. Although efforts to combat this scourge have intensified in recent years, estimates suggest that the monetary value of drug trafficking has recently surpassed that of international trade in oil and is second only to the arms trade. It is a chastening observation that humanity is so deeply mired in the commerce of degradation and death.

108. The misery caused by drug addiction is immeasurable. Moreover, in a number of countries, the vast profits derived from this illicit production and traffic have the direct effect of making sections of local economies dependent on the trade and thus creating militant constituencies for its continuance. In some cases, administrative and judicial structures are being undermined to the extent of endangering political stability. Financial systems and banking institutions are frequently used to disguise vast sums acquired through drug trade and, in a number of developing countries, underground economies are expanded by its profits. There are also reported cases of collaboration between terrorists and those involved in drug trafficking in subverting civic peace. Indeed, the Government of a Member State has been confronted with an appalling situation: a cartel of drug dealers has openly embarked on armed conflict with it and, through assassinations and other terrorist acts, has tried to intimidate the body politic as a whole.

109. It is now generally recognized that both the supply of and the demand for drugs should be reduced and action should be taken to break the link between consumers and producers. A major step in this direction was taken in December 1988 with the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The onus, of course, falls on Governments concerned to exercise the wide powers that the Convention vests in them and ensure that it is fully implemented. However, international understanding and co-ordination, together with increased resources, are indispensable in bringing this problem under control.

110. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control is working with other United Nations bodies and multilateral organizations to restrict cultivation of drug-producing crops and to stop trade in drugs through appropriate programmes, technical assistance and social measures taken largely at the community level. If decisive action is to be taken in solving the drug problem, it is essential that international support be available whenever and wherever requested. I would, therefore, appeal to all Member States to accede to the Convention and contribute generously to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

111. A related and tragic social problem is the rapid spread of AIDS, with a clear upward trend in all regions. The World Health Organization (WHO) is leading the global effort on AIDS in collaboration with intergovernmental and other bodies. In over 150 countries, WHO is monitoring and evaluating national AIDS programmes, co-ordinating with relevant United Nations entities in addressing the practical issues involved.

112. The socio-economic and humanitarian aspects of the AIDS pandemic must also be addressed. In response to General Assembly resolution 43/15 of 27 October 1988, I have sought to ensure a co-ordinated system-wide approach through the establishment of the United Nations inter-agency advisory group on AIDS and focal points have been created in all relevant United Nations entities.

113. The rising crime rate, particularly in its transnational and organized forms, has also become a threat to global society as a whole. The menace cannot be overcome without full co-operation on a multilateral basis. There is need for Governments to co-ordinate the relevant policies and judicial procedures and co-operate in law enforcement. Preparations are under way for a United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders next year. It is not beyond the combined capacities of Governments to ensure that no corner of the globe will serve as sanctuary for the perpetrators of international crime nor any laxity in vigilance afford them the impunity of which they have been taking advantage so far.

114. Though there is world-wide concern about the use of narcotics and the incidence of crime, particularly in their international aspects, additional factors cause major social upheavals in many developing countries. The mass migrations due to hunger and natural and man-made disasters tell their own tale of human distress. The quest for global tranquillity will lack balance if the problem of the displacement of an untold number of human beings is not addressed with the sense of urgency it deserves.

XIII

115. The large number of refugees and displaced persons around the world continues to be a sombre commentary on the present state of affairs. While several important advances have been made in addressing and resolving the problems of refugees, asylum-seekers and related humanitarian categories, other developments are posing difficult new challenges. In seeking to meet those challenges, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) takes the lead in working closely with other United Nations entities such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World

Food Programme (WFP) and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) in order to assure a co-ordinated and timely response.

116. The world's largest single refugee group is the Afghans, who have yet to be repatriated on a large scale. Such repatriation over the past year has occurred largely in Africa, where large numbers of refugees from several countries have returned home. UNHCR is currently overseeing the organized return of several thousand Namibian refugees. Assistance has also been planned for the repatriation of refugees in South-East Asia and Central America.

117. More States have acceded to the major international and regional instruments on refugees. However, this further validation of the international humanitarian law of refugees was offset by an increase in unilateral measures by States that has not only worsened the plight of asylum-seekers and refugees, but even poses a threat to the humanitarian institution of asylum.

118. I have been particularly concerned with the complex emergency situations that have developed in Africa as a result of severe civil conflicts often compounded by other factors. These situations generally exceed the response capacity of any single agency or organization of the United Nations system and require co-ordinated action by several of these entities. Complex emergency situations lead to large-scale internal displacement in addition to the exodus of people to countries that are themselves, in many cases, among the least developed.

119. In response to requests from affected Governments, I have organized inter-agency missions on several occasions to help assess the scope of humanitarian and rehabilitation needs for their particular situations. The final reports of such missions provide the basis for launching appeals to the international donor community for urgent assistance. During the past year I have, *inter alia*, appealed to Member States to support emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation programmes for Burundi, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Somalia and the Sudan.

120. Natural disasters are too frequently a cause of human loss, economic and social hardship. In recognition of the importance of international efforts in early warning and disaster relief, the General Assembly has designated the 1990s as an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. It is hoped that this will enhance the ability of the international community to answer situations of human distress due to causes beyond human control.

XIV

121. The administrative and financial situation of the Organization differs significantly from previous years. This is because of the impact of administrative reform, the addition of major new peacekeeping responsibilities and the continuing financial crisis.

122. The programme of administrative reforms initiated in 1986, based on the recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, has been largely implemented. However, administrative reform is essentially a continuing process. The reforms have unquestionably produced a leaner and, in many ways, a more efficient Secretariat. Staff reductions undertaken since 1986 are now nearing the recommended target of 15 per cent. Unfortunately, in several areas, the capacity of the Secretariat to fulfil its tasks is already under considerable strain. In view of additional responsibilities placed on the Secretariat, it may well be necessary to limit the cuts to the level already attained. Several offices have been restructured in order to provide a more effective response to new demands while also adjusting to

continuing constraints on available resources. Management information systems and the introduction of new technologies have yielded benefits in substantive, conference and administrative services.

123. Despite these changes, other factors have detracted from their potential net benefit. Although the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts envisaged less demand for conference and documentation services owing to the reductions and reforms, such a decrease has not occurred. Few bodies have decided to schedule biennial rather than annual meetings, or to reduce the duration of their sessions. As a result, the calendar of meetings is not significantly different this year from 1986, before the reform process began.

124. The mounting of 4 new peace-keeping operations in 1988-1989, as against 13 operations over the previous 40 years, and the planning of others have stretched to the limit the human and financial resources of the Organization. The demands on the Secretariat for additional services required a re-examination of programme priorities following on reform. In this context, I wish to mention that the staff as a whole have responded to this challenge with unfailing devotion to the mandate of the Organization. Many staff members have volunteered for service in overseas missions, fully aware of the personal sacrifice or physical hardship involved. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the realization of the goals of the United Nations provide a living testament to the vibrancy of international co-operation and multilateralism. On a recent visit to Namibia, I was deeply moved to see personnel drawn from as many as 109 States serving together under the flag of the United Nations with the single purpose of bringing that country to independence in the manner laid down by the Security Council.

125. The United Nations is now at the forefront of international efforts in a variety of areas. Demand for additional operations is likely in the coming months; these will entail more expense. At a time when the Organization continues to be short of funds, it is imperative that Governments ensure the regular and timely payment of their dues. However, the present financial position is not reassuring. As at 31 August, outstanding contributions to the regular budget exceeded \$688 million, out of which \$347 million were owed for the current year and \$341 million for earlier years. For peacekeeping operations, the arrears totalled \$661 million. All outstanding contributions thus amounted to \$1,349 million. Only with a secure financial foundation can the Secretariat respond to requests for assistance with the speed and the resources requisite to a particular situation. It is high time that the United Nations is able to leave its financial worries behind.

126. In this context, it must also be recognized that the employment of the staff so as to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity is an obligation under the Charter. The erosion of the conditions of service has made it increasingly difficult to comply with this requirement and to attract and retain staff with the necessary qualifications. The International Civil Service Commission has undertaken a comprehensive review of this situation and its findings will be presented to the Assembly.

127. The security of international civil servants also remains a cause of anxiety. There is an urgent need to ensure that the Organization is able to discharge its responsibilities without having the safety and sometimes the lives of its personnel endangered while serving in the field. I would urge Governments of all Member States to extend to them not only the protection that they need but also the treatment to which they are entitled by virtue of their being servants of all. The terms of service and the security of the staff are, I believe, matters of great importance for the Organization as a whole.

XV

128. The present report began with a retrospective glance at the different phases of international relations prior to the one ushered in only recently. I believe that the way public attitudes with regard to peace have

varied and evolved through all these phases deserves to be borne in mind at this time when we may be witnessing a new turn in international affairs.

129. At the time the Charter of the United Nations was adopted, there was a sense of a new beginning around the world. For the first time in history, the prospect of the banishment of war from international relations ceased to look utopian. This evoked a kind of enthusiasm that had never been experienced before.

130. But the optimism was soon dispelled by the discord between the principal architects of the world Organization and the consequent impasse on all major questions of international peace and security. The world did escape another global war but the balance of terror between the major nuclear-weapon Powers provided no reliable insurance against the danger and little comfort to those outside the great-Power equation. There was no shortage of the rhetoric of peace but doubts grew as to whether war was a totally unacceptable option. A fearful, fatalistic sense attended an unending arms race.

131. This sense of a loss of purpose lasted for decades. Now that it has begun to lighten, there is a return to the earlier hope that had greeted the birth of the world Organization, but a hope tempered by a firmer sense of realities. When people think better of the United Nations and when it succeeds in its efforts, they are more hopeful about peace; the reverse also holds. This is borne out by all indications of opinion around the world. If anything is clear in the present situation, it is that war and the preparations for war have dwindling constituencies, while peace has a growing one.

132. For the size and strength of the constituency of peace, a great deal of credit is due to nongovernmental organizations around the world. Their tireless work in many vital areas has complemented and supported the efforts of the United Nations.

133. But the noticeable improvement in public perceptions of the Organization intensifies an obligation—the obligation to avert another crisis of confidence. I am certain that, given the necessary support from Member States, the Secretariat of the Organization will respond fully to whatever calls are made upon it. However, its capabilities will be best employed if the Organization as a whole is used more purposefully by its Member States than it was in the recent past. The decision-making process on political matters has vastly improved with the emergence of a collegial spirit among the permanent members of the Security Council and with the daily co-operation between the Council as a whole and the Secretary-General. While this no doubt satisfies a basic condition for successful action, the changing times demand more. Agreement among the major Powers must carry with it the support of a majority of Member States if it is to make the desired impact on the world situation.

134. We will soon be entering a new decade. This, of course, means little by itself but not many decades can have opened at truly historic points. The present is such a point. There is a ubiquitous desire to turn over a new leaf, to try innovative approaches for the solution of old problems. In diverse regions, there is weariness with wars and there is recognition of their futility. Nor do the postures of hostile competition have the appeal to public opinion that they unfortunately exerted not too long ago. Instead, it is the combat against the causes of conflict, the struggle against economic inequities, and social evils and the degradation of the environment that must evoke all the courage and determination of battle. Obstacles to stable peace and balanced progress are many and the world's political, intellectual and moral imagination will need to be fully employed in overcoming them. The United Nations stands ready as the instrument for the effort.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Javier Perez de Cuellar', with a stylized initial 'J'.

Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Secretary-General

Part one: Political and security questions

Chapter I (pp. 23-33)

International peace and security

The United Nations continued in 1989 to safe-guard international peace and security. The General Assembly, noting that conflicts and hostilities were giving way to negotiations and cooperation, stressed the need to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security as well as its preventive role, authority and enforcement capacity (resolution 44/126). The Assembly also reaffirmed its support for the validity and relevance of the Charter of the United Nations and encouraged Member States to implement and strengthen the principles of international peace, security and international co-operation (44/21).

During the year, new peace-keeping operations were established in Namibia and Central America and others were being actively considered. The Assembly adopted the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations for strengthening peace-keeping operations and making them more effective (44/49).

The Assembly expressed concern at the persistent tension in parts of the Mediterranean region and urged States to co-operate in reducing tension and promoting peace and security (44/125). It also called on States to promote the objectives established in its 1986 declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from actions that might create or aggravate tension and potential conflict in the region (44/20).

The Assembly expressed concern over attempts by mercenaries to infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of small States and urged the Secretary-General to monitor the security of those States and to bring such attempts to the attention of the Security Council (44/51).

In other action, the Assembly recognized the important contribution of the 1986 International Year of Peace and supported the efforts of the international community in strengthening the United Nations as an instrument of peace (44/11).

Part one: Political and security questions

Chapter II (pp. 34-92)

Disarmament

During the year, the international community noted some positive developments towards meaningful arms limitation and disarmament, including actual reductions as a result of the 1987 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. By the end of 1989, following the entry into force of the Treaty the previous year, on 1 June 1988, some 2,000 of the 2,700 intermediate-range and shorter-range Soviet and United States missiles affected by the Treaty had been eliminated and the verification arrangements were reported to be working well.

The issue of nuclear testing remained prominent on the agendas of United Nations disarmament bodies, and many States continued to press for a comprehensive nuclear-test ban. In April, 41 States parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (the partial test-ban Treaty) requested the depositary States to convene a conference in 1990 to consider a proposal to amend the treaty to convert it into a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. During the year, preparatory work was begun for the Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, scheduled to be held in 1990.

At its 1989 session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee, adopted 57 resolutions and two decisions on disarmament issues.

The Disarmament Commission (New York, 8-31 May), a deliberative body composed of all United Nations Member States, took on one new agenda item in 1989-consideration of the declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade.

The Conference on Disarmament (Geneva, 7 February-27 April and 13 June-31 August) was asked by the General Assembly to commence negotiations on an international convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons. Efforts to elaborate a global, comprehensive ban on chemical weapons intensified. A large number of proposals and documents dealing with many aspects of a draft convention on chemical weapons were put forward, but divergent views persisted on a number of issues.

Part one: Political and security questions

Chapter III (pp. 93-101)

Peaceful uses of outer space

During 1989, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Committee on outer space) and its Scientific and Technical and Legal Sub-Committees continued consideration of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

In December, the General Assembly endorsed the Committee's recommendations regarding international co-operation in outer space and the initiative of international organizations and bodies to designate 1992 as International Space Year (resolution 44/46).

Part one: Political and security questions

Chapter IV (pp. 102-121)

Other political questions

In 1989, questions related to information, effects of atomic radiation and Antarctica were again on the General Assembly's agenda. United Nations public information policies and activities were assessed and recommendations made (resolution 44/50) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization agreed by consensus upon a new strategy for the development of communication and the free flow of information. As to atomic radiation, the Assembly requested the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to continue its work on the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources (44/45). On the issue of Antarctica, the Assembly underlined its significance for international peace and security, environment, global climate conditions, economy and scientific research (44/124 B). It appealed again for the exclusion of South Africa from the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties until the system and practices of apartheid were eliminated (44/124 A).

In the ongoing efforts towards finding a solution to the Cyprus question, the Secretary-General, in exercise of his good offices, met with the two leaders of the island communities and presented ideas to assist them in reaching agreement, proposing resumed talks between them for February 1990.

During 1989, the Security Council held a total of 69 meetings and adopted 20 resolutions. The Assembly resumed and concluded its forty-third session and held the major part of its forty-fourth session with 161 items on the agenda. It also held its sixteenth special session, covering apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa.

The Assembly requested strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (44/7), and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (44/8). It also invited the Council of Europe to participate in its work in the capacity of observer (44/6).

As there were no new admissions to the United Nations during 1989, its membership remained 159.

PART two: Regional questions

Chapter I (pp. 125-161)

Africa

In 1989, a major goal for Africa remained the elimination of apartheid and a peaceful transformation of South Africa into a united, non-racial and democratic society. The anti-apartheid struggle intensified inside and outside South Africa, and the leadership of the ruling National Party changed following the resignation in August of President P. W. Botha. In September, elections were held for the racially segregated Parliament, again excluding the African majority. However, the new President, F. W. de Klerk, described the election results as a mandate for orderly reform. The African National Congress (ANA) proposed a process of constitutional change through peaceful negotiations, and, on 21 August, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopted the Harare Declaration on the conditions necessary for a negotiated solution to the political conflict. Towards the end of the year, President de Klerk undertook a number of liberalization measures and held discussions on the country's political future with the still-imprisoned ANC leader, Nelson Mandela. In December, the Pan Africanist Movement was formed, and the first Conference for a Democratic Future was held, with more than 4,600 delegates attending.

The United Nations during 1989 continued its support for the anti-apartheid struggle. The General Assembly adopted 12 resolutions to strengthen international pressure against South Africa, including intensifying economic and financial sanctions and tightening the oil embargo. The Assembly also called on South Africa to commute the death sentence of Mangena Jeffrey Boesman, as well as those for all political prisoners (resolution 44/1).

In December, the Assembly held its sixteenth special session, at which the question of apartheid was discussed. It adopted the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, which for the first time laid down internationally agreed steps towards a negotiating climate and principles for a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa. It also prescribed a programme of work to achieve that end (resolution S-16/1).

Major advances were made by the United Nations in 1989 towards the independence of Namibia, once the territory of South West Africa administered by South Africa. Agreements signed in 1988 between Angola, Cuba and South Africa resulted in the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and the withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia. The deployment in April in Namibia of the UN Transition Assistance Group led to democratic elections in November-setting the stage for independence in early 1990 (see PART FOUR, Chapter III). During the year, United Nations Angola Verification Mission also became operational.

In other developments, the Security Council considered the downing of two aircraft of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the United States, but adopted no decision due to the negative vote of a permanent member. The Assembly again reaffirmed the sovereignty of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte. Noting the increasing co-operation between OAU and the United Nations, it requested the United Nations to support the efforts of OAU to establish an African economic community and endorsed the convening of a meeting between the secretariats of the two organizations to consider expanding and strengthening co-operation in the economic and social sectors.

PART two: Regional questions

Chapter II (pp. 162-176)

Americas

The United Nations played a pivotal role in 1989 in assisting Central American countries to achieve peace in the region. In February, August and December, the five Central American Presidents (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua) and Panama agreed on further measures to implement the security undertakings of their 1987 Esquipulas II summit. In July, the Security Council called on the Presidents to continue their efforts to achieve a firm and lasting peace in Central America and expressed support for the Secretary-General's mission of good offices (resolution 637(1989)). At the request of the Presidents, the United Nations, in co-operation with the Organization of American States, set up the International Support and Verification Commission to promote compliance with the agreements reached by the Central American Presidents. The Security Council, on the Secretary-General's recommendation, established the United Nations Observer Group in Central America, for an initial six months, to verify the cessation of aid to irregular forces and insurrectionist movements and the non-use of the territory of one State for attacks on another (resolution 644(1989)). The General Assembly approved funds for its financing (resolution 44/44).

In preparation for national elections in Nicaragua, scheduled for February 1990, the Secretary-General established the United Nations Observer Mission for the Verification of the Electoral Process in Nicaragua. In December, the Assembly deplored the continuation of the trade embargo against Nicaragua (resolution 44/217). The Secretary-General also remained engaged in negotiations between the Government and the opposition party in El Salvador, which reached an agreement on 15 September 1989. In October, the Assembly requested him to continue to support the Central American Governments in their efforts to achieve peace (resolution 44/10).

In December, the Council and the Assembly also met to consider the situation resulting from the United States military intervention in Panama. The Assembly deplored the intervention, demanded the withdrawal of United States forces from Panama and called for respect of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties (resolution 44/240).

PART two: Regional questions

Chapter III (pp. 177-188)

Asia and the Pacific

The situation in Asia and the Pacific, aggravated by certain long-standing conflicts, remained tense in 1989. The United Nations Command continued to report violations of the 1953 Armistice Agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. Following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, completed in February, lighting in the country escalated and caused more people to seek refugee status in Pakistan and Iran. Viet Nam's announcement of its complete troop withdrawal from Kampuchea in September was refuted by the opposition parties to the conflict because of the lack of a proper international control mechanism.

In those circumstances, United Nations efforts aimed at restoring peace in the region were concentrated on the implementation of resolutions and agreements concluded in preceding years. The dialogue on national reconciliation in Kampuchea resulted in a basic agreement over the conditions essential for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations providing humanitarian aid to the Kampuchean people introduced a number of new relief programmes and began preparatory work for repatriation of the Indo-Chinese refugees.

Throughout the year, the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative, with the assistance of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, were unremitting in their efforts to achieve a comprehensive solution of the Afghanistan problem, based on the 1988 Geneva Accords concluded under United Nations auspices. The United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, established in 1988 to monitor the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq and the withdrawal of their troops to internationally recognized boundaries, continued its mission in 1989, and the Security Council twice extended its mandate. In December, the General Assembly approved the Group's financing up to 31 March 1991.

PART two: Regional questions

Chapter IV (pp. 189-242)

Middle East

Throughout 1989, the United Nations continued its efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. The Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip-known in Arabic as intifadah-intensified, as did Israeli countermeasures. Military confrontation escalated in Lebanon, where the assassination of the newly elected President in November demonstrated the fragility of the reconciliation process.

The question of Palestine was reaffirmed from various sides as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and it was stressed that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region would be achieved without the full exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable national rights and the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territory and the other occupied Arab territories. The General Assembly reaffirmed that such a peace could not be achieved without the participation on an equal footing of all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, and called for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under UN auspices.

The Security Council met on several occasions to discuss the situation in the Middle East and in the territories occupied by Israel. In July and August, it adopted resolutions by which it expressed its regret over the continuing deportation by Israel of Palestinian civilians and called on Israel to ensure the safe and immediate return of those deported and to desist from deporting others. The Council also issued a number of statements on the situation in Lebanon, expressing grave concern at the deterioration of the situation there and urging all the parties immediately to end the confrontation and support all efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Lebanese crisis.

During the year, the Council twice extended, for periods of six months each, the mandates of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization continued to assist UNDOF and UNIFIL in their tasks.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian rights), which kept under review the Palestine question, reported continuing serious aggravation of the situation in the occupied territory. The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (Committee on Israeli practices) reported that the situation in the occupied territories was marked by a dangerous level of violence and repression, which had constantly escalated since the start of the Palestinian uprising in 1987. Both Committees stressed the need for urgent measures to ensure the safety of the Palestinians and protect their rights.

Economic and social developments in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories were monitored by the Economic and Social Council, which adopted during the year resolutions on Israeli economic practices, assistance to the Palestinian people and the situation of Palestinian women.

Assistance to Palestinians was provided by various UN organizations. Notable among them was the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) which continued to deliver education, health and relief services to more than 2.3 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As the Palestinian uprising and its consequences produced sudden and unprecedented demands for additional assistance, UNRWA introduced its emergency programme, which included increased medical and relief services.

PART two: Regional questions

Chapter V (pp. 243-276)

Regional economic and social activities

The five United Nations regional commissions continued to promote economic and social development in their respective regions during 1989. Four commissions held their regular sessions in March and April—the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) did not meet in a regular session, but its Committees of the Whole and of High-Level Government Experts held biennial meetings in March.

In December, the General Assembly proclaimed 1991-2000 as the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, and invited international financial and development bodies to consider the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation, which had been adopted by ECA as a basis for dialogue and consultation. The Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, interregional co-operation for facilitation of international trade, and the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar. The General Assembly adopted texts on co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System and between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference. ESCAP worked on a strategy for regional social development towards the year 2000 and beyond. ECE addressed ongoing economic reforms in centrally planned economy nations, and adopted a Charter on Ground-Water Management. ESCWA and ECLAC sought ways to contribute to the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, and continued work to improve regional economic performance.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter I (pp. 279-299)

Development policy and international economic cooperation

As the 1980s drew to a close, epoch-making political changes occurred that had far-reaching implications for the world economy. Economic growth decelerated in all major groups of economies in 1989, but unevenly; differences in growth rates were particularly large among developing countries. Per capita output increased rapidly in Asia, but in Africa and Latin America the average level of income continued to fall as it had throughout the decade.

In March, the General Assembly decided to convene in 1990 a special session devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development in the developing countries (decision 43/460). It established a preparatory committee, which held an organizational session in March and its first session in May/June.

In the Ad Hoc Committee established for the purpose in 1988, preparations continued for an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000). In December, the Assembly (resolution 44/169) recommended an outline to the Committee as the basis for the new strategy.

Preparations were also under way for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to be held in 1990. No new countries were added to the list of officially designated LDCs, which remained at 42.

Following consideration of a report on the problems of land-locked developing countries, the Assembly adopted a December resolution (44/214), in which it urged the international community to provide land-locked and transit developing countries with financial and technical assistance for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and transit infrastructures and facilities, including alternative routes.

In other action concerning economic development issues, the Assembly considered implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and called on all States to take concrete steps to implement the Charter fully (44/170). With regard to international co-operation for economic security, it emphasized that a universal, constructive and comprehensive dialogue aimed at revitalizing economic growth and development was essential if effective and co-operative approaches to international economic issues were to be found (44/231). As to economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries, the Assembly called on the international community to adopt measures to eliminate the use of coercive measures against developing countries, which had been increasing and had taken new forms (44/215).

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter II (pp. 300-333)

Operational activities for development

In 1989, some \$6.6 billion in concessional loans and grants was made available to developing countries through the United Nations system, a decrease of \$0.4 billion, or 6 per cent, as compared with 1988. That amount represented less than 13 per cent of total official development assistance to those countries from all sources during the year. Following its consideration of the annual report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on United Nations operational activities, the General Assembly, in December, called upon the international community, in particular donor countries, to make a real and significant increase in resources for operational activities for development on a continuous, predictable and assured basis and urged all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-the UN funding body for technical assistance to developing countries-registered another record year in 1989 with total income of \$1.3 billion, a 5 per cent increase over 1988. Expenditures during the year from UNDP central resources totalled \$1.2 billion, of which \$892 million was spent on field programme activities. As four decades had passed since the United Nations programme of technical co-operation was started, the UNDP Administrator in his annual report considered the role of UNDP in the 1990s in the face of rapidly changing global conditions and in the light of lessons learned over the past 40 years. He remarked upon the inadequacy of the earlier straightforward supply approach by a one-way transfer of technology, superseded by that of development agencies and partner countries working together and learning from each other. This had led to the current evolving concept of a more integrated approach, bringing together the global, regional, national and local contexts, adopting multisectoral approaches and coordinating economic and technological strategies with other considerations such as human and environmental factors. The General Assembly subsequently designated 24 October 1990 as the day to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical cooperation for development within the UN system. The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) executed a programme with total delivery of \$162 million in 1989, a growth of \$13 million, or nearly 9 per cent from 1988. Nearly two-thirds of the DTCD programme was funded by UNDP.

The United Nations Volunteers Programme expanded in 1989 with an estimated 1,801 volunteers in service at the end of the year, supported by the Special Voluntary Fund.

In 1989, project expenditures by the United Nations Capital Development Fund totalled about \$45 million. Project approvals reached nearly \$78 million in 1989, which was expected to lead to expenditures in future years substantially higher than in 1989.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter III (pp. 334-363)

Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief

During 1989, the United Nations continued to provide special assistance to countries facing severe economic hardship. Several nations received aid for reconstruction, rehabilitation and development following natural or man-made disasters. In December, the General Assembly, by resolution 44/236, proclaimed the 1990s the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and adopted an international framework of policy measures, co-operation and action to mitigate the effects of disasters.

Another significant development was the creation in October of Operation Lifeline Sudan (44/12) which, the Secretary-General reported, set an important and historic precedent for complex relief operations. For the first time, in an area of civil war, the two warring parties agreed to a common, large-scale plan of action for relief assistance to civilians on both sides of the conflict.

The critical economic and social situation in Africa remained a major concern of the United Nations during 1989. In May, the Economic and Social Council (1989/26) invited the home countries of transnational corporations to encourage corporate investment in developing countries, particularly those in Africa, and asked the Secretary-General to increase support for technical assistance to them. In November (44/24), the Assembly invited the international community to consider the African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation, adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa in April. In December, it appealed for international support for economic rehabilitation and assistance programmes in Angola (44/168), Chad (44/176) and the front-line States (44/181) and other neighbouring States that had suffered from the apartheid policies of South Africa. The Assembly also requested continued assistance for Lebanon (44/180) and support for the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America (44/182).

The UN system, and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator in particular, continued to provide assistance to countries stricken by natural disasters. Heavy flooding in Democratic Yemen and Djibouti during March and April prompted the Assembly (resolutions 44/179 and 44/177) and the Council (resolutions 1989/1 and 1989/2) to call for intensified relief operations and rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Assembly (44/3) also urged international emergency assistance for Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Montserrat and Saint Kitts and Nevis after they were struck by Hurricane Hugo.

The Economic and Social Council (1989/103) recommended that desertification and drought be given priority within international assistance programmes, and also called for continued international support for efforts to control locusts and grasshoppers (1989/98). Those resolutions were subsequently endorsed by the Assembly in December (decisions 44/437 and 44/438).

With regard to man-made disasters, in May the Council (decision 1989/111) called for international support to meet urgent humanitarian needs in Somalia, particularly its northern provinces, where attacks by bandits had produced widespread destruction and large numbers of displaced persons. The Assembly echoed that request in December (resolution 44/178), and also urged States (44/239) to offer emergency humanitarian assistance to Romania.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IV (pp. 364-386)

International trade, finance and transport

International trade and global output continued to grow in 1989 following rapid expansion in 1988. However, the picture of an international economy in apparent good health contained a double image. Although some areas of the world, particularly the developed market Economies and several developing countries of East Asia, were enjoying boom conditions, others—Africa and Latin America— were in the grip of depression and disorder.

The Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), at both its 1989 sessions, discussed the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system and the external debt problems of developing countries. In December, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the constructive spirit of the Board's deliberations and invited all parties to give effect to its resolutions and decisions. In other action, the Assembly stressed that deterioration in the economic situation of debtor developing countries constituted a major obstacle to their growth and could be a threat to their economic, social and political stability.

There was a major advance in the commodities area in 1989, with the coming into force in June of the 1980 Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, a mechanism intended to stabilize the commodities market by helping to finance buffer stocks of specific commodities as well as commodity development activities such as research and marketing. Another commodity-related development was the establishment of the International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products, 1989. The Agreement, which contained no price or supply stabilization measures, was primarily in support of research and development in agriculture, industry and market promotion.

The volume of international sea-borne trade increased for the fourth consecutive year in 1989, reaching over 3.9 billion tons. However, although 47.6 per cent of world trade originated in developing countries, the effective control of 67.5 per cent of the world merchant fleet remained concentrated in the developed market-economy and open registry countries.

At its October session, the Trade and Development Board devoted a special meeting to commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of UNCTAD. It also agreed that the eighth session of UNCTAD should be held in 1991 in Latin America.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XLVI (pp. 387-396)

Transnational corporations

The impact of transnational corporations (TNCs) on international development, trade and global investment flows continued to attract the attention of the international community in 1989.

The Commission on Transnational Corporations (fifteenth session, New York, 5-14 April) considered, among other things, the draft code of conduct on TNCs, the role of TNCs in South Africa and Namibia, TNCs and international economic relations, the role of TNCs in services and transborder data flows, and the work of the Centre on Transnational Corporations. At the seventh session of the Commission's Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts (New York, 5-14 April), international standards of accounting and reporting were discussed.

In May, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct a study of joint ventures among national corporations from various developing countries and their contributions to the development process (resolution 1989/21). It also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on trends concerning TNCs and international economic relations (1989/22), and to study the impact of development assistance to least developed countries on flows of foreign direct investment to them (1989/23).

The Council further requested the Secretary-General to conduct a study of the main sectors of TNC activity that had an adverse impact on the environment (1989/25) and to prepare a report on the activities of transnational banks in relation to the external indebtedness of developing countries (1989/28). It condemned TNCs that continued to collaborate with the racist minority régime in South Africa (1989/27), and requested the Chairman of the Commission's special session to intensify consultations on the code of conduct (1989/24).

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VI (pp. 397-407)

Natural resources, energy and cartography

The development of natural resources, problems of energy resources, and cartographic issues continued to be dealt with by several UN bodies in 1989. The United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration entered a new phase with its ongoing efforts to assist developing countries in the exploration and exploitation of their mineral and geothermal energy resources. The Economic and Social Council requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to outline a programme for the implementation of new techniques, including remote sensing, by which developing countries could enhance their technical capacity for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources (resolution 1989/9). At its eleventh session, the Committee on Natural Resources considered the report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources. By resolution 1989/5, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to conduct studies on prospects for small-scale mining and to explore ways and means of strengthening technical co-operation and possible sources of financing for small-scale mining initiatives. In May, the Economic and Social Council called for an outline for a programme on energy-saving devices to overcome the lack of electrical power in developing countries (1989/6).

Concerns for the diminishing stock of the world's scarce water resources continued to engage the attention of the United Nations and its related bodies.

The Council (1989/7) requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on strategies and measures to continue implementation of the 1977 Mar del Plata Action Plan on the development and conservation of water resources.

In October, the General Assembly affirmed its confidence in the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes (44/13). All nations were urged to strive for effective and harmonious international cooperation in carrying out the work of the Agency and to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's safeguards system for nuclear installations.

UN work in the area of cartography continued in 1989. The Fourth UN Regional Conference for the Americas was held in New York in January.

The UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names met in Geneva in May.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VII (pp. 408-416)

Science and technology

The year 1989 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, the cornerstone of United Nations activities in that field. An end-of-decade review provided an opportunity for UN bodies dealing with science and technology issues to evaluate progress made through the Vienna Programme of Action and suggest improvements. The General Assembly reaffirmed the Programme's basic goals and validity and expressed concern regarding its implementation.

The activities of UN bodies concerned with science and technology continued to focus on strengthening the scientific and technological activities of developing countries, mobilizing financial resources and upgrading institutional arrangements. The UN Centre for Science and Technology for Development continued to make policy recommendations for action. The Assembly called on UN organizations to devote increased attention to national capacity-building in science and technology and entrusted the Centre, through the Advance Technology Alert System, to serve as the focal point for technological assessment within the UN system.

The Assembly recommended that the UN Fund for Science and Technology for Development give priority to pilot projects on the endogenous capacity-building of developing countries, activities related to new and emerging areas of science and technology, and projects aimed at fostering cooperation among developing countries. It also called upon the Fund and other UN organizations to enhance co-ordination and harmonization at the country level.

Consultations on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology continued. The Assembly invited the Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development to submit a complete report on the outcome of those consultations.

The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the main directing and policy-making body for that area, held its tenth session in August/September, focusing on the end of decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action. The Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, which provides policy and planning advice to the Intergovernmental Committee, held its eighth session in September.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VIII (pp. 417-453)

Environment

The year 1989 witnessed a heightened interest in the environment, both internationally and regionally, as the world's political leadership made environmental issues, particularly the relationship between environment and development, a major priority. In January, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer entered into force, and in March the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted and signed at an international conference in Switzerland, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). During the year, environmental concerns were discussed at major regional and international conferences and meetings. In December 1989, the General Assembly decided to convene in Brazil in 1992 the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and established a preparatory committee for the Conference. The Assembly also urged Governments to prepare a framework convention and associated protocols on climate change.

The Economic and Social Council concluded that increasing attention needed to be paid to the provision of new and additional financial resources to address the environmental concerns of the developing countries and that such provision should be kept under continuous review.

In 1989, UNEP acted to strengthen its role and effectiveness as the central catalysing, coordinating and stimulating body in the field of the environment within the UN system. The UNEP Governing Council in May, meeting at Nairobi, Kenya, adopted a record number of decisions on the environment. The Programme continued its various activities to conserve biological diversity and protected areas, control soil erosion and forest loss, protect the marine environment and collect information on such topics as air and water quality, food contamination and ozone depletion.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IX (pp. 454-471)

Population and human settlements

In 1989, the United Nations Population Fund assisted more than 3,500 country and intercountry projects and completed upwards of 200 projects. Major activities of the Fund focused on maternal/child health care and family planning; information, education and communication; basic data collection; utilization of population data and research for policy formulation and development planning; and issues related to women, population and development. Special programmes largely concentrated on AIDS-related activities.

After a third review of the 1974 World Population Plan of Action, several recommendations were proposed for its further implementation, which were subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council. The Council also decided to convene in 1994 an international meeting on population in order to assess the progress made in carrying out the Plan and provide guidance for the treatment of population issues for the next decade. The International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in November, adopted the Amsterdam Declaration, recommending specific population goals to be achieved by the year 2000. The Commission on Human Settlements considered as its major themes the implementation, monitoring and financing of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; opportunities for co-operation between governmental and nongovernmental sectors in human settlements; and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure. It adopted its first report to the General Assembly on implementation of the first phase of the Global Strategy.

The UN Centre for Human Settlements, also known as Habitat, was designated the lead agency in implementing the Global Strategy. In addition, Habitat continued to assist developing countries in human settlements activities, including technical co-operation, research and development and information dissemination.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter X (pp. 472-576)

Human rights

In 1989, the United Nations continued its efforts to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and to curtail their violations.

Progress continued to be made on a number of international instruments. In November, the General Assembly adopted and opened for signature the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and called on States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority (resolution 44/25). In December, the Assembly adopted the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at abolishing the death penalty (resolution 44/128).

The Working Group on Indigenous Populations reviewed developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples. It considered the first revised text of the draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples prepared by the Group's Chairman/Rapporteur. The Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families discussed the provisions of the draft convention still pending during the second reading. As in the past, the Commission on Human Rights set up an informal open-ended working group to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. The Working Group on Detention discussed a new draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearance.

In economic and social matters, the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development considered the implementation of the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights examined reports submitted by countries on their implementation of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee's day of general discussion focused on the right of each person to an adequate standard of living for self and family.

The Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session, held in January-March, reviewed activities under the UN programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and the programme of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, and considered the implications of scientific and technological developments for human rights as well as other issues relating to the promotion and protection of human rights. It examined situations involving alleged human rights violations on a large scale in several countries. The Commission adopted 75 resolutions and 14 decisions. Its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-first session, held in August/September, adopted 47 resolutions and 13 decisions.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XI (pp. 577-593)

Health, food and nutrition

In 1989, the United Nations continued to respond to international problems concerning health, food and nutrition. As the global dimension of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and their extensive socio-economic and humanitarian implications became widely known, collaboration among organizations of the UN system and governmental and nongovernmental organizations accelerated. The World Health Organization estimated the actual number of AIDS cases worldwide to be three times higher than officially reported. In December, the General Assembly urged increased efforts to advance the global strategy against the pandemic (resolution 44/233).

Efforts continued to reactivate and strengthen national disability committees to attain the goals set in the Programme of Action concerning the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The Assembly reaffirmed the validity of the Programme of Action and reiterated that for the second half of the Decade, special emphasis should be placed on the equalization of opportunities for the disabled (44/70). It also drew attention to the Tallinn Guidelines for Action on Human Resources in the Field of Disability, adopted at an International Meeting held in the USSR.

World food production rose 3.2 per cent in 1989. In per capita terms, it rose 1.4 per cent, after having fallen by a cumulative 2.5 per cent during 1986-1988. In all developing regions except East Asia, food and agricultural growth fell below the average rate of the 1980s. In May, the World Food Council adopted the Programme of Co-operative Action, calling for fundamental policy changes and a firm political commitment to eliminating hunger and poverty. In July, the Economic and Social Council urged the World Food Council to carry out activities in the areas of nutrition, food security and agricultural trade (resolution 1989/88). A sum of \$1.5 billion was set by the General Assembly as the target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme for the period 1991-1992 (resolution 44/230).

The statement issued by the 1988 Conference on Nutrition in Times of Disaster was brought to the Economic and Social Council's attention in July.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XII (pp. 594-643)

Human resources, social and cultural development

In 1989, the United Nations advanced efforts to promote human resources and social and cultural development, which involved work in numerous interrelated areas including literacy, the family, crime prevention and criminal justice.

In a report on the world social situation, the Secretary-General cited economic adversity as one of the most prominent features of the current social situation, noted a widespread demand for a more efficient use of resources in promoting social welfare, and suggested that the private sector and voluntary associations should play a more important role in social development. The report included for the first time a section on the impact of structural adjustment on the social development of developing countries. In addition, the report emphasized the social aspects of rural development.

The Commission for Social Development held its thirty-first session in March. It reviewed trends and strategies for social integration, popular participation, and policies for the advancement of specific social groups. On its recommendation, the Economic and Social Council adopted a series of resolutions.

Concerning crime prevention and criminal justice, efforts were made to improve the functioning of the UN work programme, to promote implementation of international standards and norms, and to increase international co-operation. The Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions recommended by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its tenth (1988) session. With respect to cultural development, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conducted the first biennial review on the progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997).

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIII (pp. 644-670)

Women

In 1989, the United Nations continued to take steps to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted in 1985 to overcome continuing obstacles to the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985). Key activities centred around preparations for the review and appraisal of progress in implementing the Forward-looking Strategies, to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1990. The Commission held its thirty-third session in Vienna from 29 March to 7 April 1989.

The first regular update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development was submitted in 1989 to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The Survey, primarily a study of women's economic role in development, suggested that three issues were of particular relevance for future analyses: women's participation in economic decision-making, the relationship between women's economic role and the support functions provided in the family, and women's involvement in crucial issues related to the environment. The 1989 Survey, compiled by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, updated information contained in the original Survey published in 1985.

The General Assembly in 1989 acted to improve the situation of rural women based on a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General and on the results of an International Seminar on Women and Rural Development, convened in May. In addition, the Assembly addressed matters concerning elderly women, the integration of women into development, and the status of various bodies and instruments to advance the status of women and ensure their equality. The Assembly also took action to improve the status of women in the UN Secretariat.

The Economic and Social Council, acting on the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women, decided to increase the membership of the Commission, beginning in 1990, and to convene in 1991 a high-level interregional consultation on women in public life. The Council considered questions relating to women and development, including the impact of AIDS and women living in absolute poverty, as well as the situations of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Central America, Palestinian women and those living under apartheid.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered reports of States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. On 18 December, the tenth anniversary of the treaty's adoption by the General Assembly, Chile became the one hundredth country to ratify the Convention.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIV (pp. 671-692)

Children, youth and aging persons

During 1989, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to make efforts to reduce infant and child mortality and improve the quality of life for children. Despite the world-wide economic set-backs, 42 countries had achieved universal child immunization by December, and many countries started linking immunization programmes with the basic maternal, child and primary health care systems. Emergency activities were continued in conflict-affected countries. UNICEF actively participated in Operation Lifeline Sudan, launched in April to assist 2.25 million people affected by recurring natural and man-made disasters, civil war and famine. In April, James P. Grant was reappointed as Executive Director of UNICEF for a further term of five years from 1 January 1990.

The education and unemployment problems facing young people were considered by the General Assembly, which, in December, requested the Secretary-General to promote and monitor intensively the inclusion of youth-related projects and activities in the programmes of UN bodies and specialized agencies, specifically in the areas of communication, health, housing, culture, youth employment and education, drug abuse and the environment.

The second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging was conducted during the year. Taking note with interest of the priorities identified and recommendations made therein, the Assembly endorsed the draft programme of UN activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action, in 1992.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XV (pp. 693-713)

Refugees and displaced persons

During 1989, despite continuing and widespread refugee problems in the world, there were encouraging developments in relation to certain longstanding situations. The single most notable of these was in Namibia; the emergence there of an independent State was preceded by the successful repatriation of more than 43,000 Namibians. The International Conference on Central American Refugees formulated in May a special plan of action to facilitate the return and rehabilitation of refugees and displaced persons and to benefit local populations as well. The Comprehensive Plan of Action, adopted at the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees in June, set out measures to deal with asylum-seekers in the South-East Asian region.

However, the repatriation of more than 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and another 2.5 million in Iran remained stalled by an intractable political situation in Afghanistan. Similarly, prospects for peace in Kampuchea did not materialize, preventing the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Kampuchean refugees and displaced persons.

Faced with the most difficult financial crisis ever in its 40-year history, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1989 undertook repeated cuts in programmed and assessed needs, with serious negative consequences for refugees and the Office's ability to protect and find durable solutions for them.

The Nansen Medal, awarded since 1954 in honour of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was not awarded in 1989.

Jean-Pierre Hocké resigned as High Commissioner with effect from 1 November. The General Assembly on 20 November elected Thor vald Stoltenberg of Norway as his successor for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1990 (decision 44/312).

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XVI (pp. 714-730)

Drugs of abuse

The global situation regarding illicit drug trafficking and abuse reached a new and dangerous stage in 1989, with heavily armed and well-financed drug trafficking organizations threatening political institutions in some countries. In its annual report, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) stated that the illegal production of narcotic drugs had increased and had spread to more countries. The environment of some countries continued to be damaged by the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and coca bush. The increasing spread of AIDS through intravenous drug abuse was viewed with growing alarm.

The United Nations continued to seek ways to aid the international fight against drug abuse. Many States and organizations took action in response to the 1988 Convention against Illegal Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. INCB continued to supervise drug control activities, and the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control expanded and intensified its activities, providing financial and technical assistance to drug control projects in 49 countries. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council adopted a number of resolutions dealing with drug abuse control, some on the recommendation of the Council's Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the principal UN policy-making body on drug control issues. Because of the alarming state of global drug trafficking and abuse, the General Assembly decided to hold a special session to address the problem.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XVII (pp. 731-738)

Statistics

The United Nations Statistical Commission in 1989 adopted two major economic classifications: the third revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the provisional Central Product Classification. Their adoption represented the culmination of more than a decade of effort by both the Statistical Office of the UN Secretariat and the Commission, in co-operation with the European Economic Community and other international organizations. The Economic and Social Council recommended that Member States adopt the revised Industrial Classification and make use of the Central Product Classification.

The importance of development indicators in evaluating progress achieved was discussed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Council, in May, strongly supported the work of the UN Statistical Office, the UN Research Institute for Social Development and the World Bank in producing development indicators. In December, the Assembly requested the Office and the Institute to pursue actively their co-operation with the other relevant bodies of the UN system. With regard to the revised System of National Accounts, a recommendation to defer its adoption until 1993, owing to insufficient time for the completion of the full draft, was made by the InterSecretariat Working Group on National Accounts.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XVIII (pp. 739-750)

Institutional arrangements

The Economic and Social Council continued during 1989 to review its structure and functioning. In July, it adopted measures with regard to major policy themes and thematic analyses, documentation, organization of work and substantive support, the purpose of which was to revitalize the Council in its efforts to carry out its responsibilities.

Following the January/February session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Council in May granted consultative status to 33 NGO s, added 17 to the Roster, and reclassified certain others.

The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), at its two regular sessions in 19 89, gave priority attention to debt an d development, an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, international drug abuse control and the environment. It also held a special session devoted to the conditions of service of the Professional and higher categories of staff.

The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) continued efforts to harmonize system-wide activities and work programmes.

Part four: Trusteeship and decolonization

Chapter I (pp. 753-783)

Questions relating to decolonization

Decolonization remained a concern of the United Nations in 1989. The main body dealing with the issue, the General Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee on decolonization), continued to consider decolonization questions in general, as well as the individual situations of Non-Self Governing Territories (NSGTs), including 13 small territories. The Committee also considered the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (see next chapter) and Namibia (see Chapter III of this Part).

The Assembly endorsed a Programme of Activities in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the 1960 Declaration (resolution 44/100). Having declared the 1990s the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Assembly recommended that the Secretary-General again solicit suggestions from States for incorporation into a final report to be submitted at the forty-fifth (1990) session which would enable the Assembly to adopt an action plan for the elimination of colonialism (44/429).

In relation to specific Territories, the Assembly deferred consideration of the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) to its forty-fifth (1990) session (44/406), after receiving letters from Argentina and the United Kingdom stating that all hostilities between the two countries had ceased and that substantive talks had taken place. The Assembly welcomed talks on the question of Western Sahara between His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and a high-level delegation from the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO Front) (44/88).

Part four: Trusteeship and decolonization

Chapter II (pp. 784-788)

International Trusteeship System

During the year, the Trusteeship Council continued to monitor the status of Palau, the single remaining entity of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which had not completed the process of self-determination. In 1989, the Trust Territory was the last still under the International Trusteeship System.

In April, a Visiting Mission was dispatched to Palau. The Council in June invited the United States, the Administering Authority, to take into account the Mission's recommendations.

The live-member Trusteeship Council—China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States—held its nineteenth special session in New York on 16 and 17 March, and its fifty-sixth session, also in New York, from 15 May to 1 August. The Council considered the Administering Authority's annual report, heard 10 petitioners and examined 125 written petitions and 14 communications regarding the Territory.

Part four: Trusteeship and decolonization

Chapter III (pp. 789-811)

Namibia

The year 1989 saw the beginning of the end of colonialism in Africa, as Namibia—the largest Territory with a colonial background anywhere in the world—began an irreversible march to independence. As a pre-First World War German colony known as South West Africa, it was the only one of seven African Territories once held under the League of Nations Mandate System that was not placed under the United Nations Trusteeship System, due to the fact that South Africa refused to accept UN competence, and despite Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and opinions of the International Court of Justice asserting the Organization's primary role in the Territory.^a As early as 1969, the Security Council called on South Africa to withdraw its illegal administration,^b and in 1976 it demanded that South Africa accept elections for the Territory under UN supervision and control.^c The Territory was then renamed Namibia, rather than South West Africa, under a 1968 General Assembly resolution^d stating that that was the name desired by the people. In 1976, the Assembly decided^e that any independence talks must include the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which the Assembly recognized as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people. In 1978, at a special session, the General Assembly expressed support for the armed liberation struggle of the Namibian people, stating that any settlement must be arrived at with SWAPO's agreement and within the framework of UN resolutions.^f

The United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), the fundamental role of which was decolonization, moved into place in the Territory on 1 April 1989, mandated through 31 March 1990. South Africa, which had administered the Territory for some 70 years, thereafter began its withdrawal, though renewed fighting between its forces and the national liberation movement, SWAPO, during the first few days of April briefly threatened to derail the UNTAG operation. Once the cease-fire was reinstated and forces of both parties had returned to agreed bases and positions, UNTAG began to focus on creating conditions for elections to a Constituent Assembly, which was to draw up a constitution for an independent Namibia, scheduled to come into existence in early 1990.

While elections eventually took place without incident in November 1989, under UN supervision and control, and were subsequently certified free and fair by the Secretary-General's Special Representative—a validation accepted by the parties—the Security Council had to take actions earlier in the year to ensure that the UN operation was able to fulfil its mandate. In August, it acted regarding Koevoet, the South African counter-insurgency group, as well as regarding election procedures (resolution 640(1989)), followed by a further resolution on the same issues in October (643(1989)). In a statement in November, the Council deplored what it found to be false allegations by South Africa about concentrations of SWAPO combatants in southern Angola. For its part, the General Assembly approved UNTAG financing (resolution 44/191), and adopted other resolutions on activities of transnational corporations in Namibia (44/84) and on torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in South Africa and Namibia (44/143). Preparing for the post-independence period, other United Nations bodies, particularly the Council for Namibia, launched assistance programmes, while continuing to oversee programmes already in operation.

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter I (pp. 815-819)

International Court of Justice

In 1989, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) continued to deal with five contentious cases. Three new disputes were referred to it, and a request for an advisory opinion was received. During the year, the Court delivered one Judgment, one advisory opinion and 10 Orders.

The General Assembly and the Security Council independently held elections in April to fill a vacancy created by the death in 1988 of Judge Nagendra Singh. In December, the Court, following the death of one of the ad hoc judges in one of the Chambers, issued an Order on the composition of that Chamber.

On 8 February and 7 August, Zaire and Guinea-Bissau, respectively, deposited with the Secretary-General a declaration recognizing as compulsory the jurisdiction of the Court, as contemplated by Article 36 of the ICJ Statute.

In November, the General Assembly declared 1990-1999 to be the United Nations Decade of International Law. In December, for the fourth time the Assembly called for full and immediate compliance with the Court's 1986 Judgment in the case concerning Military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua (*Nicaragua v. United States*).

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter II (pp. 820-831)

Legal aspects of international political relations

Continuing its efforts to develop legal measures for promoting friendly international political relations, the General Assembly in December 1989 again urged States to observe and promote the 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes and stressed the need to settle such disputes through progressive development and codification of international law and through enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in this field. The Assembly commended the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization for completion of the draft on resort to a commission of good offices, mediation or conciliation within the United Nations, and decided that it should be brought to the attention of States. Also in December, the Assembly invited the International Law Commission (ILC) to continue its elaboration of the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind, including the elaboration of a list of crimes.

The Assembly adopted and opened for signature and ratification or accession the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. It condemned all acts of terrorism, called on States to fulfil their obligations under international law to refrain from participating in terrorist acts and urged them to take effective measures for the elimination of international terrorism. It further called for the release of all hostages and abducted persons and called on States to use their political influence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to secure their release.

In July, the Security Council had likewise condemned all acts of hostage-taking and abduction and demanded the immediate safe release of all hostages and abducted persons. The Council also condemned all acts of unlawful interference against the security of civil aviation and called upon States to cooperate in devising and implementing measures to prevent acts of terrorism, including those involving explosives. It urged the International Civil Aviation Organization to intensify its work on devising an international régime for the marking of plastic or sheet explosives for the purpose of detection.

ILC continued in 1989 to consider draft articles on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses.

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter III (pp. 832-835)

States and international law

In 1989, the United Nations continued to be involved in the promotion and development of international law governing States, as well as their international treaties and agreements.

The Secretary-General in November reported on measures to protect diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. The International Law Commission (ILC) continued its work on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier. In December, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation to the Commission for its work and decided to hold consultations at its forty-fifth session to study draft articles on the matter (resolution 44/36). ILC also examined state responsibility, international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law, jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, and relations between States and international organizations.

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

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter IV (pp. 836-843)

Law of the sea

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea continued in 1989 to set the legal standards for the use of the world's seas and oceans, exerting a dominant influence on the maritime practices of States even before the entry into force of the Convention. In the light of the significant change in the international political climate, the Secretary-General expressed renewed hope for universal participation in the Convention and urged recognition of its importance in environmental issues.

The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, at its seventh session, continued to examine issues related to the implementation of the obligations of the four registered pioneer investors in the international seabed "Area" (the sea-bed beyond national jurisdiction), and to prepare draft agreements, rules, regulations and procedures for the Authority.

In November, the General Assembly called on all States that had not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention and to observe its provisions when enacting national legislation. It requested the competent international organizations to intensify financial, technological, organizational and managerial assistance to the developing countries in their efforts to realize the benefits of the régime established by the Convention.

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter V (pp. 844-857)

Other legal questions

In 1989, the United Nations continued its work on various aspects of international law and international economic law.

In December, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization and requested it to accord priority, at its 1990 session, to the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations, and to continue work on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. It requested the Secretary-General to continue the preparation of a draft handbook on the peaceful settlement of disputes (resolution 44/37).

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country continued to consider in 1989 the relations between the UN diplomatic community and the United States, its host country. In December, the Assembly urged the host country, in the light of travel regulations issued by the United States, to continue to bear in mind its obligations to facilitate the functioning of the United Nations and its missions, and stressed the importance of a positive perception of the United Nations and its role in the strengthening of international peace and security (44/38).

In November, the Assembly declared the period 1990-1999 as the United Nations Decade of International Law, the main purposes of which would be to promote acceptance of and respect for international law; promote means for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice (ICJ); encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification; and encourage its teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation (44/23).

The International Law Commission (ILC) continued to elaborate on the progressive development and codification of international law. At its forty-first session (Geneva, 2 May-21 July 1989), ILC adopted 32 draft articles and 2 draft optional protocols on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier. It recommended to the Assembly that it convene a conference to study the three drafts and conclude a convention on the subject. The Commission also provisionally adopted three new articles of the Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind. In December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Commission (44/35).

The twenty-fifth session of the International Law Seminar was held at Geneva from 12 to 30 June and was attended by 22 participants of different nationalities, mostly from developing countries. The Assembly requested States and interested organizations to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (44/28). The Assembly requested ILC to address, at its forty-second session, the question of establishing an international criminal court or other international criminal trial mechanism with jurisdiction over persons alleged to have committed crimes that may be covered under a draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind, including persons engaged in illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs across national frontiers (44/39).

Legal aspects of international economic law and the new international economic order continued to be considered by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and by the General Assembly's Sixth (Legal) Committee. At its twenty-fourth session, UNCITRAL dealt primarily with a Draft Convention on the Liability of Operators of Transport Terminals in International Trade, which was adopted by its Working Group on International Contract Practices. The Assembly decided that an international conference of plenipotentiaries should be convened at Vienna in 1991 to consider the draft convention

prepared by the Commission and to embody the results of its work in a convention on the subject. It repeated its invitation to States that had not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to the conventions elaborated under the auspices of the Commission (44/33).

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to seek proposals of Member States concerning the most appropriate procedures to be adopted with regard to the codification and progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order (44/30).

Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter I (pp. 861-883)

United Nations financing and programming

The Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly at the close of the year that the Organization had very narrowly avoided bankruptcy during 1989 and prospects were very grim indeed. The only real solution to the continuing financial crisis (resulting from the withholding of assessed contributions to the Organization's regular budget and for peace-keeping operations) was the payment by all Member States of their assessed contributions in full and on time. Unless and until that basic legal obligation under the Charter was honoured by all Member States without exception, the threat of financial collapse would continue to haunt the United Nations.

As at 8 December, more than a third of the 1989 regular budget assessment remained unpaid; total assessed contributions outstanding, including for prior years, were \$529.2 million, of which \$430.1 million, including about \$213.9 million of past arrears, was owed by one Member State. On the basis of present assumptions, all reserves would be exhausted and cash depletion would occur in the last quarter of 1990.

To maintain the United Nation's financial viability, according to the Secretary-General, it was essential to at least double the Working Capital Fund from its present level for the biennium 1990-1991, and for the membership to assume collective responsibility and authorize the necessary assessments on all Member States. However, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions this proposal was deferred to 1990.

The financial crisis was not restricted to the United Nations itself but extended to the UN system as a whole. Unpaid assessments by mid-year amounted to \$1,034 million, or more than 51 per cent of total 1989 assessment. In addition, some \$618 million in arrears due to prior years, corresponding to nearly 31 per cent of total 1989 assessments, remained outstanding.

The Secretary-General submitted his final report on the administrative and financial reforms recommended by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18) covering reforms since 1 January 1987. Proposed post reduction for the biennium 1990-1991 included 11 posts at the Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General level, while the overall post reduction between the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 and then for 1990-1991 was 1,368 posts, a reduction of about 12 per cent (from 11,422 posts to 10,054).

Final budget appropriations for the biennium 1988-1989 were decreased by \$16.4 million from the \$1,788.7 million appropriated in 1988. The Secretary-General submitted a proposed programme budget for 1990-1991 of \$1,983,863,400 which he stated represented a negative real growth rate of 0.4 per cent. Actual appropriations approved by the General Assembly amounted to \$1,974,634,000. ACABQ calculated that the grand total of UN expenditures for the biennium, including the net estimate for the regular budget, support services, substantive activities and operational projects, to be about \$4.2 billion. The Advisory Committee also calculated that the regular budgets (or budget estimates) of the United Nations, the specialized agencies (excluding the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the International Atomic Energy Agency (m) for 1990 would amount to \$2,306,839,721, of which \$2,178,378,229 would be covered by assessed contributions. Further assessed contributions for the United Nations were likely to arise in 1990 for peace-keeping operations, ACABQ said; 1989 assessments totalled \$720.7 million. Regarding the established posts for 1990 authorized or requested against the regular budget, ACABQ noted a decrease of 1,132 compared to the 1989 total. ACABQ also calculated that as at 30 September 1989 contributions of \$609.6 million were outstanding to the United Nations and \$675.2 million to the specialized agencies and

IAEA, representing 63.45 per cent of total net contributions of Member States actually payable in respect of 1989, as compared to a corresponding figure of 58.01 per cent as at 30 September 1988.

The General Assembly also adopted resolutions on the scale of assessments (44/197 A), assessment procedures for non-member States (44/197 B), financial reports, audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors (44/183), programme planning (44/194), and the Joint Inspection Unit (44/184).

Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter II (pp. 884-903)

UN staff matters

In 1989, the Secretary-General submitted a final report on implementation of the 1986 General Assembly-approved recommendations for restructuring. However, after considering it, the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) recommended a further report to the 1990 Assembly, in order to assess the impact of the administrative and financial reforms.

During the year, the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) submitted a report on its comprehensive review of the conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories, while the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) called for at least a 5 per cent remuneration increase for all staff, as a beginning step towards restoration of the margin envisaged in the Noblemaire principle of UN staff remuneration, in comparison to the highest-paid national civil service.

The General Assembly, in acting on the ICSC report, noted with concern that it had not been possible for the Commission to recommend the introduction of a revised remuneration structure and urged it to submit final and complete conclusions to the Assembly in 1990. In regard to the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18), the Assembly stressed that in order to successfully carry out the process of reform and restructuring, it was essential that the present financial uncertainties facing the Organization be dispelled. It recognized the progress achieved so far in implementing overall post reduction, while acknowledging that the Secretary-General was not in a position at present to propose further reductions. It renewed its request to the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly in 1990 an analytical report assessing the effect of the reforms, and made recommendations for the structure of that report.

Also in 1989, the Secretary-General reported on the establishment of a fully revised internal justice system; changes were made in the UN pension scheme to re-establish actuarial viability; and the General Assembly agreed to increase the mandatory retirement age of staff from 60 to 62 years in respect of new staff members.

There were continued disturbing reports about officials of the UN system who had been arrested and detained or who had disappeared in various places throughout the world, a situation given tragic emphasis by the apparent murder of a senior United Nations Truce Supervision Operation (UNTSO) officer serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter III (pp. 904-910)

Other administrative and management questions

In 1989, the Committee on Conferences continued to examine ways in which conference resources within the UN system could be used more effectively. In December, the General Assembly requested the Committee to review the methodology of conference-servicing utilization rates in order to provide, if possible, a more accurate assessment of the overall use of conference resources, so that optimum use could be made of those services (resolution 44/196 A). It also asked the Secretary-General to analyze the printing requirements of the Organization and to recommend proposals to maximize the cost-effectiveness of external and internal printing (resolution 44/196 B). The Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General's view that a single conference-servicing facility at the Vienna International Centre would represent the ideal solution for servicing the UN system there, and requested him to expedite consultations within the system to that end (resolution 44/201 A). An in-depth review of the operation of common services at Vienna was also requested (resolution 44/201 B). The Assembly expressed deep concern at the delay in completion of reports on work-load statistics and standards regarding conference and library services, as earlier requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). It also requested that the Secretary-General begin implementing an optical disc system for storage and retrieval of digital material and to submit to the Assembly in 1990 a report providing a comprehensive plan for full implementation of that system, including by regional commissions and at other duty stations.

Regarding the general introduction of electronic data processing and new technologies in the United Nations, the Assembly asked for a report in 1990 assessing results and outlining future plans (resolution 44/200 C).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter LXXIII (pp. 913-916)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established in 1957 to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, continued in 1989 to promote the exchange of scientific and technical information, to establish and administer safeguards and health and safety standards, and to provide technical assistance to its members.

The thirty-third session of the IAEA General Conference (Vienna, 25-29 September) adopted resolutions relating to Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat; measures to strengthen international cooperation in matters of nuclear safety and radiological protection; the dumping of nuclear wastes; the 1987 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material; a production of low-cost potable water using nuclear heat reactors in sea-water desalination; and the nuclear capabilities of South Africa.

The IAEA Board of Governors held five meetings in 1989, in February, June, September, October and December.

IAEA membership remained at 113 in 1989. In September, the General Conference resolved to take a decision at its 1990 session on the suspension of South Africa from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership of IAEA.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter II (pp. 917-920)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

During the year, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), established in 1919 as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations, continued its standard-setting, technical co-operation, research and publishing activities in six major areas of work: promoting policies to create employment and satisfy basic human needs; developing human resources; improving working conditions and environment; promoting social security; strengthening industrial relations and tripartite (government/employer/worker) cooperation; and advancing human rights in the social and labour fields.

ILO membership in 1989 remained at 150.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter III (pp. 921-925)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

In 1989, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to assist farmers, fishermen and foresters to improve their standards of living and produce more foods using techniques that did not degrade the environment. Established in 1945 to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity and better the condition of the rural poor, FAO'S main objective remained the achievement of global food security, where everyone would have access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. The organization also continued to monitor food supply conditions worldwide and provide emergency relief.

The FAO Conference, the organization's governing body, held its twenty-fifth biennial session at FAO headquarters (Rome, Italy, 11-29 November). It approved the organization's programme of work and budget for 1990-1991 and adopted resolutions on various aspects of food, agriculture and rural development. The Conference noted that global food and agricultural production had been at exceptionally low levels in 1987 and 1988 and that, despite an increase in production in 1989, cereal production was expected to be below consumption for the third consecutive year. It also noted that per capita staple food production had declined in many developing countries, especially in Africa, and that developing countries required differential treatment in the light of their economic problems and falling prices for certain agricultural commodities, notably coffee and cocoa.

The Conference approved the conclusions of a two-year review of certain aspects of the organization's goals and operations, carried out by the FAO Programme and Finance Committees, with the assistance of an independent panel of experts, at the request of the 1987 Conference. The review recommended, among other things, strengthening FAO's field operations, including the creation of a project identification and formulation facility, and improved co-ordination and co-operation with other UN bodies, particularly the World Bank group.

As part of FAO's activities to promote environmentally sound practices in agriculture, the Conference approved a Prior Informed Consent clause to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, adopted in 1985, which called for participating countries to be notified when a pesticide was banned or severely restricted in the country of origin or by other importing countries.

The Conference unanimously endorsed a Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development, designed to ensure that rural women were accorded equal rights and opportunities and increased access to land, credit, extension services, rural organizations, decision-making and improved technology. Aiming to increase acceptance of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, adopted in 1983, the Conference endorsed an agreed interpretation of the Undertaking, which recognized the rights of both plant breeders and farmers in relation to the exploration, development and conservation of plant germplasm. It also established an International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources.

The Conference also decided to move the FAO Regional Office for the Near East from headquarters back to its old premises in Cairo, Egypt, to improve the quality and impact of its activities.

During the year, FAO membership remained unchanged at 158 countries.

More than 140 countries observed World Food Day on 16 October.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter IV (pp. 926-929)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continued throughout 1989 to promote cooperation among nations in education, natural and social sciences, culture and communication. To pave the way for the future, particular attention was given during the year to increasing the efficiency of UNESCO, bringing its work more into the public eye, enhancing its credibility and developing its operational capabilities.

The twenty-fifth session of the UNESCO General Conference, which convened at the organization's headquarters in Paris (17 October-16 November), adopted the Convention on Technical and Vocational Education and approved the medium-term plan for 1990-1995, as well as the programme and budget for 1990-1991. The third medium-term plan set out priorities for future action in the organization's spheres of competence, striking a balance between continuity and innovation, with a view to responding more effectively to the changing needs of the world community, particularly the developing countries and disadvantaged groups.

Membership of UNESCO increased in 1989 to 161 States (plus three associate members) with the admission of the Cook Islands, Djibouti and Kiribati.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter V (pp. 930-933)

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO), established in 1948, continued during 1989 to serve as the directing and coordinating authority on international health. The World Health Assembly, the governing body of WHO, at its forty-second session (Geneva, 8-19 May), endorsed proposals related to the work of the organization in the following areas: strengthening the basic infrastructure of health systems based on primary health care; improving management, information support and research capabilities; ensuring the development and transfer of appropriate technology to countries; developing and reorienting human resources in line with new strategies; and mobilizing and making best use of all possible financial and material resources for sustainable development. The Assembly also adopted a plan of action to eradicate poliomyelitis, as well as vigorous measures against malaria, dracunculiasis, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and the abuse of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. It approved a budget of \$653.7 million for the 1990-1991 biennium.

During 1989, the membership of WHO remained at 166, with one associate member.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter VI (pp. 934-935)

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) continued during 1989 to assist developing countries to progress economically and socially by providing loans and other assistance. Lending commitments by the Bank totalled \$16.4 billion for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1989, an 11 per cent increase over fiscal 1988. During the year, the Bank sought to strengthen its efforts in several key policy areas, including reducing poverty in the developing world; increasing assistance to highly indebted middle-income countries undertaking adjustment measures; integrating environmental considerations into its policy and operational work; and launching an action programme to provide an increased role for the private sector in the Bank's developing member countries.

Membership in the Bank rose to 152 in 1989 with the admission of Angola.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter VII (pp. 936-937)

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Established in 1956 as an independent affiliate of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) continued in 1989 to further economic growth in developing member countries by promoting productive private investment. IFC provided long-term loans and risk capital without government guarantees to private sector enterprises. It also continued to provide the technical assistance and advisory services needed to make good use of investment opportunities in developing countries and to encourage the flow of private capital to them.

During fiscal year 1989 (1 July 1988-30 June 1989), IFC membership remained at 133.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter VIII (pp. 938)

International Development Association (IDA)

The International Development Association (IDA), which was established in 1960 as an affiliate of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), continued to provide concessionary assistance, primarily to low-income countries and on easier terms than the Bank. During fiscal year 1989 (1 July 1988-30 June 1989), IDA concentrated on the very poor countries—those with an annual per capita gross national product of less than \$480 (in 1987 United States dollars).

IDA resources, called credits to distinguish them from World Bank loans, were derived mostly from subscriptions in convertible currencies from members; general replenishments from its more industrialized members; and transfers from the Bank's net earnings. Credits were made only to Governments and had 35 to 40-year maturities, including a 10-year grace period, and were interest-free.

Negotiations for the ninth replenishment of IDA resources (IDA-9) were launched in February 1989 at a meeting of IDA deputies in Washington, D.C. The deputies then met in London on 17 and 18 May to consider issues related to allocation, eligibility and the size of the ninth replenishment. Further meetings were scheduled for the remainder of calendar year 1989 in Copenhagen, Denmark, Washington, D.C., and Kyoto, Japan.

As at 30 June 1989, cumulative IDA commitments totalled \$52 billion. During fiscal 1989, IDA approved 115 credits totalling \$4.93 billion to 43 developing countries. The majority of funding went to Africa, \$2.3 billion to 28 countries, and Asia, \$2.2 billion to nine countries. India was the largest borrower, with six credits amounting to \$900.3 million, followed by China, with five credits totalling \$515 million, and Bangladesh, with four credits totalling \$423.1 million. Credits financed projects primarily in the agriculture and rural development, education, energy, industry, transportation, and population, health and nutrition sectors.

During the year, a total of 21 countries received 30 credits totalling \$1.4 billion for agriculture and rural development. IDA granted credits totaling \$141.7 million to assist development finance companies in eight countries. It also granted credits totalling \$134.3 million to eight countries for technical assistance, five credits totalling \$229.5 million for urban development, five credits totaling \$ 222 million for water supply and sewerage projects, and 18 non-project credits totalling \$726.5 million to assist 16 countries with economic recovery, structural adjustment and financial reform programmes. In addition, 10 countries received credits totalling \$449.1 million for the education sector; eight received \$455.6 million for the energy sector; four received \$124.5 million for the industrial sector; five received \$107.9 million for the telecommunications sector; 10 received \$693.1 million for the transportation sector; and six received \$223.5 million for projects related to population, health and nutrition.

IDA membership increased to 138 in 1989, with the admission of Angola.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter IX (pp. 939-941)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1989 continued to serve as a permanent forum for the discussion of global monetary issues and related economic matters, to assist its members to develop sound economic policies and to promote conditions conducive to a healthy world economy. The Fund's primary activities included advising on economic and financial policies; providing information and technical assistance; and making loans to members undertaking economic reforms to overcome balance-of-payments difficulties. Each member contributed to IMF's pool of financial resources—measured in special drawing rights (SDRs)—and the amount of its contribution determined each member's voting power and how much it could borrow from the Fund.

In 1989, IMF membership increased to 152, with the admission of Angola.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter X (pp. 942-943)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), an intergovernmental regulatory body whose objectives were set down in annexes to the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation, continued in 1989 to prescribe standards for and facilitate the safety and efficiency of civil air transport. In 1989, traffic on the world's scheduled airlines increased by 5.4 per cent over 1988, to 224 billion tonne-kilometres. The airlines carried about 1.1 billion passengers, an increase of almost 2 per cent over 1988. As the number of seats offered increased at the same rate as passengers carried, the estimated passenger load factor remained at 68 per cent. Air freight increased by more than 7 per cent, to some 57 billion tonne-kilometres. Airmail traffic increased by 5 per cent.

The ICAO Assembly held its twenty-seventh session in Montreal, Canada, from 19 September to 6 October. It elected a new Council, reviewed ICAO's activities and approved a work programme. The ICAO Council held three regular sessions in 1989. Concerned with acts of unlawful interference with international civil aviation, especially the destruction over Lockerbie, Scotland, of Pan American flight 103 in December 1988, the Council decided, in June, to include as a priority in the general work programme of the Legal Committee preparation of a new legal instrument regarding the marking of explosives for detectability.

In 1989, ICAO membership increased to 162 with the admission of Bhutan and Mongolia.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XI (pp. 944-945)

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

The Universal Postal Union (UPU), established at Berne, Switzerland, in 1874, continued during 1989 to promote the organization and improvement of postal services and to develop international collaboration. At the request of its members, UPU also participated in various forms of postal technical assistance.

In 1989, UPU membership increased to 170, with the admission of Samoa.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XII (pp. 946-948)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which was founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1947 to promote the development and efficient operation of telecommunications facilities world-wide. In 1989, ITU also continued to offer technical assistance in its areas of expertise and to encourage adoption of a global approach to telecommunications.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference at its thirteenth session (Nice, France, 23 May-30 June) adopted a new constitution and convention to supersede the convention adopted at Nairobi, Kenya, in 1982.

The ITU Administrative Council held its forty-fourth session (Geneva, 30 January-3 February; Nice, 24 May) and opened its forty-fifth session (Nice, 30 June), reviewing financial and administrative matters and approving the ITU budget for 1990. It also examined the report of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Telecommunications Development. At an extraordinary session (Geneva, November), convened in accordance with a decision of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Council established a high-level committee to review the structure and functioning of ITU and decided to continue its forty-fifth ordinary session in Geneva from 11 to 22 June 1990.

ITU membership remained at 166 in 1989, with no new admissions during the year.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XIII (pp. 949-953)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), established in 1950 to facilitate world-wide cooperation related to meteorological information and the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, agriculture and other human activities, continued during 1989 to implement its scientific and technical programmes along the lines indicated by its highest body, the World Meteorological Congress, in May 1987.

The forty-first session of the 36-member Executive Council (Geneva, 5-16 June) made several important decisions related to climate change and protecting the global atmosphere, including establishment of the Global Atmosphere Watch early warning system. On 8 September, WMO and the Government of Japan signed an agreement designating the Japan Meteorological Agency as the WMO World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases, to commence operations in 1990.

WMO was also involved in planning the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction whose aim was, during the 1990s, to reduce the impact of extreme natural calamities through coordinated global action.

As at 31 December 1989, WMO membership had increased to 161—156 States and 5 territories—with the admission of Antigua and Barbuda.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XIV (pp. 954-955)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), which began work in 1959 as the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, continued during its thirtieth anniversary year in 1989 to focus on developing international shipping standards and treaties with the aim of improving maritime safety and preventing pollution from ships.

In April, an international conference at IMO headquarters in London adopted the International Convention on Salvage to replace the 1910 convention on the law of salvage. A set of amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, entered into force in October 1989. During the year, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee adopted another series of amendments, which were expected to enter into force on 1 February 1992.

In September 1989, the International Maritime Prize for 1988 was awarded to Emil Jansen of Norway, who had been involved in IMO's work since 1966 and had served as Chairman of the Maritime Safety Committee until his retirement in 1988. The prize is awarded annually to the individual or organization judged to have made the most significant contribution to IMO objectives. The theme for World Maritime Day, which was celebrated at IMO headquarters on 2 September, was "IMO—The First Thirty Years".

In October, the IMO Assembly appointed William A. O'Neil of Canada as IMO Secretary-General for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1990.

During the year, IMO membership increased to 134, with the admission of Malawi and Monaco. The organization also had one associate member, Hong Kong.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XV (pp. 956-957)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

In 1989, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) continued development co-operation, standardization and registration activities to promote respect for the protection and use of intellectual properties, including industrial property and copyrights. During the year, the organization's development co-operation programme further expanded, as did activities related to norm-setting in the exchange of industrial property information and the international registration of marks, patents and industrial designs. During 1989, diplomatic conferences convened by WIPO adopted two new treaties—on the International Registration of Audiovisual Works and on Intellectual Property in Respect of Integrated Circuits—and a new Protocol to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks.

The governing bodies of WIPO and the unions administered by it held their twentieth series of meetings (Geneva, 25 September-4 October), and adopted a substantial programme of work and a budget for the WIPO International Bureau for the 1990-1991 biennium. New activities to be undertaken during that period included examination or preparation of: a new protocol to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works; a new treaty on the settlement of disputes between States in the field of intellectual property; a new treaty or revision of the Lisbon Agreement on the Protection of Appellations of Origin and Their International Registration; model laws on intellectual property protection in respect of integrated circuits, as well as on counterfeiting and piracy; and a mechanism to provide services for the resolution of disputes between private parties over intellectual property rights.

During 1989, WIPO membership increased to 126 States, with the accession of Democratic Yemen, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia and Thailand to the 1967 Convention establishing WIPO, amended in 1979. The number of States adhering to treaties administered by WIPO also increased: to 100 parties to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property; 84 to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works; 24 to the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure; 35 to the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations; 43 to the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms; 34 to the Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks; and 43 to the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XVI (pp. 958-959)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

In 1989, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) continued to provide concessional financial assistance to agricultural projects in low-income, food-deficit countries to increase food output while retaining environmental sustainability and focusing on support for poor rural women. The Fund paid particular attention to sub-Saharan Africa to generate durable benefits for a large number of the poor in the most deprived areas of the continent.

The year marked several important milestones for IFAD. Negotiations on the third replenishment of the Fund's resources were successfully completed and rebuilding of the Fund's lending levels was further reinforced. A wide range of additional commitments under the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification (SPA) took place and a new generation of grants for agricultural research on environmentally sound methods of smallholder crop and animal development was introduced. Particularly important in terms of IFAD's preparedness for the coming decade were the gains made in furthering the specificity of its approach to rural poverty alleviation.

The IFAD Executive Board held three regular sessions (April, September, December) and one special session (June) during the year, approving loans for 23 projects, including 7 loans under SPA, as well as 31 technical assistance grants. The Board approved a programme of work for 1990 at 214.4 million special drawing rights (SDR) and endorsed a budget of \$38.85 million, plus a contingency of \$500,000. It also approved the programme of work in 1990 for SPA (SDR 43.3 million) along with administrative expenses of \$3.82 million with a contingency of \$150,000.

IFAD membership remained at 143 in 1989, with non-original membership pending on two States, Malaysia and Myanmar. Of the current members, 21 were in category I (developed countries), 12 in Category II (oil-exporting developing countries) and 110 in Category III (other developing countries).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XVII (pp. 960-965)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

In 1989, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) continued its activities in the areas of industrial operations, strategies and promotion. In addition, special programmes calling for multidisciplinary or inter-departmental approaches were designed to support industrial growth and restructuring, which included the first Industrial Development Decade for Africa 1980-1990 (IDDA), assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs), industrial co-operation among developing countries, integration of women in industrial development and co-operation with industrial enterprises and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

A streamlined vision for the industrialization of developing countries was presented at the third session of the General Conference, which took place at Vienna from 20 to 24 November. Attended by 129 countries and some 700 delegates, the Conference addressed such topics as environmental protection; regional industrial programmes for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific; industrialization of LDCs; new concepts and approaches for co-operation in industrial development; mobilization of financial resources; and the 1990-1991 programme and budget.

As of 31 December 1989, 151 States were members of UNIDO.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XVIII (pp. 966-968)

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

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment (Havana, Cuba, November 1947–March 1948) drew up a charter for an International Trade Organization (ITO) and established an Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (ICITO). The members of the Conference's Preparatory Committee also negotiated tariffs among themselves and drew up the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Since the charter itself was never accepted, ITO was not established. GATT—the only multilateral treaty embodying reciprocal rights and obligations laying down agreed rules for international trade—entered into force on 1 January 1948 with 23 contracting parties; ICITO provided the GATT secretariat.

As at 31 December 1989, the number of contracting parties to GATT remained at 96. Tunisia had acceded provisionally. The contracting parties accounted for nearly 90 per cent of world trade; 28 other countries, to whose territories GATT had been applied before their independence, maintained a de facto application of GATT pending final decisions as to their future commercial policy.