

English Express

The Yearbook of the United Nations
Yearbook Express

Yearbook of the United Nations 1990



Volume 44



English

Express

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

YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 1990

Volume 44

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

Following is the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization, presented to the General Assembly on 16 September 1990. The Assembly took note of it on 16 October (decision 45/404).

I

1. The period we have entered is Janus-faced. It wears both the aspect of hope and the countenance of dangerous unrestraint. In one major segment of world affairs, we have witnessed political change of a phenomenal character. In large parts of the globe, however, the scene continues to be one of simmering resentments, violent collisions and at best a precarious peace. The question whether the more beneficial developments of 1989-1990 will have a healthy impact on the totality of the world situation is still unanswered.

2. The ending of the cold war has meant the abandonment of the many assumptions that throttled progress in international affairs, bred chronic suspicion and fear and polarized the world. The lessons it conveys both for social thought and for purposes of practical policy are manifold. From the viewpoint of the United Nations, however, three of its characteristics have a global significance.

3. First, the revolutionary developments in Eastern and Central Europe have given powerful expression to two of the cardinal principles of the Charter of the United Nations: self-determination of peoples and respect for human rights.

4. Second, it has been strikingly demonstrated that a status quo based primarily on the military factor is bound to prove fragile.

5. Third, the larger- and saner-concept of security, encompassing all its dimensions, which has begun to emerge is precisely the one the United Nations has been expounding all through the years. It has been a stable theme at the United Nations that an obsession with military security results in a self-perpetuating arms race, distorts priorities, hampers social and economic progress, constrains political dialogue, affects the institutions of the State to their long-term detriment, and aggravates the sense of insecurity in all nations. What often sounded a voice in the wilderness has now gained a volume and resonance it lacked before.

6. Thus, the very change that has rendered obsolete the whole architecture of the cold war serves to reveal afresh the design for peace which the United Nations is meant to execute. Nothing in the constructive refashioning that has taken place in Europe nor in the destructive trends exploding elsewhere requires a modification of the purposes and principles of the Organization as laid down in its Charter. In fact, in this respect, the Charter gains richer meaning as political evolution progressively enlarges and clarifies the scope of its principles.

7. The United Nations, therefore, enters the post-cold war era as a central point of constancy in the midst of flux. Through years of patient effort, it has achieved a complementarity in the working of its different organs which makes it far better fitted to fulfil its onerous tasks. The exercise of the authority of the Security Council in the manner envisaged in the Charter, the many instances of the General Assembly and the Council reinforcing each other's efforts, the close cooperation between the Council as a whole and the Secretary-General, the growing role of the Secretariat as represented by the Secretary-General in undertaking increasingly diversified missions of peace, and the revitalized role being contemplated for the Economic and Social Council-all these testify to a strengthening of the institutions embodied in the Organization.

8. With its ability thus enhanced and its relevance emphasized by the process of change, three broad

objectives define its mandate. It has to try to eliminate the seeds of war in all areas of the globe and, in so doing, squarely face the fact that new sources of conflict are emerging in our age. It has to serve as the prime instrument for extending the spirit of co-operation to those spheres--economic relations between nations and humanity's social problems-which are seemingly non-political but have profound political implications. It has to strive unremittingly to ensure that international affairs are governed by the rule of law and universal respect for human rights.

9. This is an ambitious agenda but a rapidly changing world asks for nothing less.

II

10. As we survey the political scene, we see the dawn of a new era in Europe, streaks of light in some regions and the darkness of old animosities and new hatreds enveloping others.

11. The unification of the two German States and the changes in Eastern Europe have signaled the end of the entrenched division from which Europe suffered ever since the Second World War. A remarkable feature of the whole process, which has transformed the political shape of the continent in the span of less than one year, has been the high level of understanding, farsightedness and respect for popular will that has been exhibited by all the parties concerned, including the global Powers. Nothing could better reflect a fundamental change in relations between those Powers and promise to open a more constructive chapter of world history. It is noteworthy that, in a different region, this year also witnessed the establishment of the new Republic of Yemen when the two Yemeni States decided peacefully to unite.

12. Indeed, in a climate created by palpable signs of new attitudes and perceptions, the expectation grew that the quality of openness pervading Europe now and the choice for peace that Europe has made would prevail elsewhere as well. However, recent developments, like the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, remind us of the danger of underestimating the political density of the globe and the variety of factors behind the current situations of tension in other continents. An optimistic view can be sustained only when the peaceful settlement of disputes becomes a consistent practice all over the world and when the anxieties and the causes of unrest in the international community as a whole are fully addressed.

13. This report is being written at an extraordinary point in time when developments are taking place so rapidly that today's perspective on a situation may have shifted tomorrow. While this inevitably makes some observations tentative, I propose to look first at the brighter side of the picture.

14. During the year under review, the United Nations has had remarkable success in conducting a variety of operations aimed at managing peaceful transitions in societies which were the scenes of conflicts or had suffered upheavals. Given such a purpose, these operations have so many different facets and have so combined elements of peacekeeping and peace-making as to have radically altered traditional concepts of the arrangement between the two. Formerly, peace-keeping was understood to mean essentially to control or contain conflicts while peace-making was meant to resolve them. A deeper and more active involvement of the United Nations has over time, however, increasingly shown that peace-making itself determines, as it should, the size, scope and duration of peace-keeping as conventionally understood and that it is often by a fusion of the two in an integral undertaking that peace can genuinely be brought to troubled areas. I am referring here in particular to the complex operation mounted in Namibia and several others conducted in Central America. All of them have yielded new insights which can be most useful as the United Nations is called upon to deal with other and even more complicated situations in future. Whatever political obstacles to the solution of thorny problems may be encountered in other places, the practicability of physically putting a solution in place through the management of the United Nations, given the requisite support of Member

States, need no longer be in question.

15. Namibia has shown the reward of perseverance in the quest of just solutions to international disputes. Nearly a quarter century after the General Assembly first adopted a resolution on the territory's status and a dozen years after the Security Council laid out a settlement plan for its independence, through a tortuous process which went through alternating phases of hope and frustration, the United Nations reached its goal this year. The time span between the formulation and the achievement of the aim could, and should, have been shorter, but the result could not have been more convincing. Personally, it brought to me gratifying fulfilment of a priority I had set myself when I assumed my present responsibilities.

16. The Namibian experience was a striking demonstration of the results that can be achieved by multilateral effort, by the active engagement of the principal organs of the United Nations and by the members of the Security Council and other States undertaking a crucial role in negotiations conducted with the parties. It was a focus on the prime objective that ensured the convergence of the diplomatic efforts launched from several fronts. The United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG) turned out to be something far more than its somewhat pedestrian name implied. It established the workability of democratic procedures even in a terrain which at first looked most unpromising. It also proved the executive ability of the United Nations in successfully managing a complex operation, which brought together 8,000 men and women from more than 100 nations, all united in the aim of peacefully bringing a country to independence through modalities set out by the Security Council.

17. The settlement of the question of Namibia has had a healthy impact on the situation in southern Africa. The official United Nations team which I sent in June to South Africa, with the agreement of the South African Government, observed that the country had reached the threshold of a new era. The political process towards dismantling the apartheid system is yet at an early stage and difficulties are still caused by the continuance of apartheid structures, questionable police practices, repressive laws and politically related violence. Nor can the fear and anxiety which accompany the fundamental transformation of a society be underestimated.

18. However, progress has been made towards establishing an atmosphere conducive to negotiations. The situation was recently given an impetus by the joint declaration of the South African Government and the African National Congress that aimed at accelerating the political process towards a negotiated settlement through various measures, including the release of political prisoners and reviewing current security legislation. The announcement by the African National Congress of the suspension of all armed actions has also been a significant development. Unfortunately, these promising events have been marred in recent weeks by a marked increase in the incidence of violence, resulting in innumerable casualties and jeopardizing political dialogue. This issue needs to be addressed urgently at the highest level by all concerned.

19. The prospect of a non-racial democracy in South Africa in the not-too-distant future is no longer unrealistic. This would carry a significance far beyond that of profound and beneficial change in a large and pluralistic society. It would mean the realization of one of the objectives of the United Nations which goes to the root of the justice and stability of international relations envisaged in the Charter.

20. The United Nations has undertaken a wide range of endeavours pertaining to peace in Central America in the past year, in pursuance of the goals of the agreement known as Esquipulas II. The Organization's involvement in the region is very complex and varied and demands on it have required versatility and constant adaptation, using a variety of frequently innovative means. Last October I appointed a personal representative for the Central American peace process in order to assist me in co-ordinating the discharge of these many-faceted endeavours.

21. The Organization played a major part in resolving the conflict in Nicaragua. A United Nations Observer Mission (ONUVEN) monitored the preparation and holding of free and fair elections in February, the first such operation authorized and conducted by the Organization internally in a Member State. The success of this endeavour led to a central role for the Organization in the peaceful transfer of power in a region where in the past such transfers have been the exception rather than the rule.

22. In the context of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), the United Nations assumed a key role in the voluntary demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance. The Commission, which I together with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) established in response to a request by the Central American Presidents, was instrumental in obtaining the agreement by the Nicaraguan Resistance to demobilize. With the operational support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, CIAV is assisting in their resettlement in Nicaragua.

23. The task of receiving and destroying the weapons of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and of verifying the cease-fire which made possible their demobilization inside Nicaragua was discharged by the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), the first United Nations peace-keeping operation in the region, whose original mandate was to verify compliance by the five Central American Governments with their security commitments entered into in Esquipulas II.

24. Late last year the five Central American Presidents requested me to engage more actively in diplomatic efforts in search of solutions to conflicts in the region, specifically in El Salvador. I was asked to find ways for Powers from outside the region to support these efforts. With my assistance, the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) agreed in April to launch a negotiating process under my auspices for the purpose of speedily ending through political means the armed conflict which has torn that nation for a decade as well as to promote the democratization of the country, guarantee unrestricted respect for human rights and reunify Salvadorian society.

25. The initial goal set for the negotiation is to achieve political agreements on a number of issues in order to secure a cease-fire, to be verified by the United Nations. With the full and active participation of my representative, a partial accord has to date been reached on a text regarding respect for human rights, which provides for an unprecedented scheme for long-term, nationwide monitoring by the United Nations. The Organization is also expected to play a role in overseeing the process which is to lead to elections in March 1991.

26. The issues involved, however, are deeply rooted and complex. They touch upon the structure of the State and the fabric of society. In addition to human rights, the judicial and electoral systems and economic and social questions, the central issue is that of the armed forces, including their relationship with the civilian authorities and the role of the military apparatus in society. As elsewhere in Latin America, the issue of how to deal with the past is also at the forefront of the agenda. The negotiation in progress holds the potential of leading to a positive transformation of Salvadorian society, which would strengthen the link, embodied in Esquipulas II, between the establishment of peace and the consolidation of democracy.

27. It is thus understandable that it has not yet been possible to reach the initial goal and that the war consequently goes on in El Salvador. I remain convinced that this process can succeed if the parties unswervingly adhere to their April undertakings and there is strong support from outside Powers that are in a position to provide it. Without such adherence and support, however, there is no end to the war in sight.

28. In March, a process was launched with the ultimate purpose of seeking a political solution to the internal armed confrontation in Guatemala. This effort, under the auspices of the Guatemalan National Reconciliation Commission, a body established in conformity with Esquipulas II, has to date involved the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) and political parties as well as social forces of that

country, and in due course is to lead to conversations between the Government and the Armed Forces and URNG. An observer appointed by me is attending the talks. It is my hope that this effort, which has begun auspiciously, will usher in a process leading to peace and national reconciliation in this long-suffering nation.

29. Encouraging progress continues to be made towards resolving the problem of Western Sahara. We have now not only an agreed set of proposals and a timetable for their implementation, but also a plan approved in June by the Security Council. This plan provides for holding a referendum which will enable the people of Western Sahara to determine their future without military or administrative constraints.

30. In July, I dispatched a technical mission to the Territory and to neighbouring countries to refine the administrative aspects of the implementation of the plan and to obtain the necessary data for an estimate of the cost of the operation. I am in the process of submitting a further report to the Security Council in this regard.

31. Contacts with the parties concerned, Morocco and the Frente Polisario, as well as with the observers to the peace process, Algeria and Mauritania, have continued throughout. Close contact has also been maintained with the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity. In March, I visited the region and renewed discussions with the leaders of Morocco and the Frente Polisario whose continued support and co-operation has been essential to the progress of our efforts.

32. A critical element in the organization of the referendum will be the problem of identifying those eligible to vote. Taking into account the social structure of Western Sahara, the acknowledged tribal leaders will have a particularly important role to play in the process. In this context, a representative group of tribal leaders from Western Sahara was invited to meet with the Identification Commission in Geneva so that they could be briefed on the Commission's terms of reference and the methods of work it would adopt. I have also endeavoured to ensure that the actual process of such identification, and of the referendum itself, should be clear and fully understood by the people directly involved.

33. Without wishing to minimize the complexity and dimensions of the task before us, I am of the view that, given the co-operation and political will displayed by the parties, a solution to this long-standing problem is well within our grasp.

34. There is now a widely shared belief that a solution to the conflict in Cambodia may be within reach. The agreement on a framework for a comprehensive political settlement based on an enhanced role of the United Nations, which was reached by the five permanent members of the Security Council at the end of August, and the recent decision of the Cambodian parties in Jakarta to accept this framework and to form a Supreme National Council represent major steps forward in the negotiating process. I earnestly hope that all parties concerned will pursue this process vigorously, so that the Paris Conference on Cambodia can be reconvened to finalize and conclude a comprehensive peace agreement. The time has come to put an end to the fighting and to the long suffering endured by the Cambodian people. The establishment of a durable peace will ultimately depend, however, on a genuine national reconciliation among the Cambodians, as well as on the full support and cooperation of all the parties directly or indirectly involved in this tragic conflict.

35. Over the past year, I have continued to work closely with the parties concerned and to make my good offices available as needed, in order to contribute to the negotiating process. In early February, I established a Secretariat task force on Cambodia. Since then, I have dispatched four fact-finding missions to the country, in order to gather information and data relevant to an eventual United Nations operation in Cambodia. The United Nations will, of course, be prepared to assume in Cambodia any appropriate role which is agreed by the parties and approved by the Security Council. However, I cannot over-emphasize the need to ensure that the mandate that may ultimately be entrusted to the United Nations is realistic, clearly defined and

practicable in operational terms. It is also essential that the Organization be provided with sufficient resources, in a timely and assured manner, so that an efficient operation can be implemented with a reasonable chance of success.

36. My efforts concerning the Cyprus problem have focused last year on finding a way to complete the outline of an overall agreement, as the leaders of the two communities had agreed in June 1989. As I have reported to the Security Council, it has not yet been possible to achieve this goal, and I am concerned by the lack of movement in the negotiating process and the deteriorating situation on the island.

37. At the same time, I have been encouraged by the active involvement of the Security Council, which on several occasions during the past year was unanimous in stressing the importance it attached to an early negotiated settlement of the Cyprus problem. In resolution 649(1990), the Council confirmed and clarified the lines along which a solution is to be sought, and in its statement of 19 July 1990 it endorsed my plan of action for completing the outline and launching the negotiations for an overall agreement. These developments offer a basis for progress, provided both sides heed the Council's call to co-operate with me, promote reconciliation, and are willing to deal with the issues in a manner amenable to compromise.

38. Over the last 12 months, the suffering of the Afghan people has continued and the number of refugees in Pakistan and Iran has remained basically unchanged. At the international level, however, there has been progress in the direction of a consensus among the Guarantor Powers and the countries neighbouring Afghanistan.

39. Such an international consensus is necessary, in my view, in order to encourage an Afghan political process which in turn would enable the Afghan people to exercise, unhindered, their right of self-determination. In my recent efforts, I have particularly focused on promoting such a consensus and the responses I have received so far from the Governments concerned clearly indicate a desire to achieve a settlement through political means. During my contacts with all segments of the Afghan leadership, I made clear the readiness of the United Nations to assist them, in whatever way they would deem appropriate, to begin a political process leading to the establishment of a broad-based government. The opportunity now exists for collective and concerted efforts, both at the national and international levels, to achieve a resolution of the conflict.

40. While a spirit of conciliation prevails in many areas of the world today, new and alarming dangers have arisen in the Middle East in recent weeks. Throughout my tenure as Secretary-General, I have repeatedly underscored the need for a comprehensive settlement of the complex issues facing this region, pointing out that a deterioration of the situation in one area almost invariably has repercussions elsewhere. The events that began on 2 August 1990, and the developments that were set in motion as a result, illustrate this point vividly.

41. The invasion and purported annexation of the State of Kuwait by Iraq has evoked an historic response from the Security Council. In a series of resolutions without precedent, the Council has established that such actions, which are in direct contravention of the principles of the Charter and international law, cannot be committed with impunity. The Council promptly condemned the invasion, demanded that Iraq withdraw immediately and unconditionally all its forces, called upon Iraq and Kuwait to begin immediately intensive negotiations for the resolution of their differences and expressed support of all efforts in this regard, especially those of the League of Arab States. When the demand was not complied with, the Council imposed economic sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter in order to bring the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq to an end and restore the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait. The Council further declared the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq as null and void. As regards the situation of the nationals of third countries in Kuwait and Iraq, the Council demanded that Iraq permit and facilitate their immediate departure and take no action to jeopardize their safety, security or health. It also demanded that

Iraq rescind its orders for the closure of diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait and the withdrawal of the immunity of their personnel. The continuing non-compliance by Iraq with the Security Council's demands led to the Council's call upon "those Member States co-operating with the Government of Kuwait which are deploying maritime forces to the area to use such measures commensurate to the specific circumstances as may be necessary under the authority of the Security Council... to ensure strict implementation" of the provisions laid down in the resolution relating to economic sanctions. In this connection, States were requested to co-ordinate their actions, using, as appropriate, mechanisms of the Military Staff Committee. The Council has emphasized that it alone, or acting through its Committee, can determine whether humanitarian circumstances have arisen in which it will be necessary for foodstuffs to be supplied to the civilian population in Iraq or Kuwait in order to relieve human suffering. Though the outcome of this crisis may not be predictable at the moment, these resolutions are bound to remain of definitive importance in the application of the rule of law in safeguarding the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Member States.

42. The invasion of Kuwait has also caused a human tragedy of immense proportions, the dimensions of which are still incalculable. Hundreds of thousands of third-country nationals residing in the area have been rendered destitute overnight; many of them have been left without the means to support their families, much less to return to their countries of origin, which are themselves staggering under the economic effects of this crisis. International relief efforts have begun to respond to the enormous demands that have been created, not only in providing temporary shelter and sustenance to a displaced population now spread throughout five countries, but also in making transport available for those seeking to leave the area. I have appointed a personal representative to assist me in these efforts. Meanwhile, the decision by Iraq to restrict the movement of nationals of certain countries has heightened tension, and continues to be a source of profound concern to the international community.

43. It is clear that progress cannot be made on the overall situation in the region, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, until the present crisis is set on the way to solution in accordance with the position taken by the Security Council. It is disappointing to note that an impasse has been reached in the effort to promote a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. The intifadah will soon enter its fourth year and, regrettably, the situation in the occupied territories remains bleak, with little hope of early progress. I continue to believe that, in addition to the efforts to promote a dialogue, the Security Council could make an important contribution to the process by renewing its commitment to resolutions 242(1967) and 338(1973) which, in my view, together with the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination, can constitute the basis of a just and lasting peace in the area.

44. Since my last report, relations between Iran and Iraq have improved and it has thus been possible to implement important aspects of Security Council resolution 598(1987), with the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group fulfilling the role assigned to it. In this connection, withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries has taken place and prisoners of war are now being repatriated and are rejoining their families-in accordance with the Treaty and conventions to which Iran and Iraq are parties. It is worth recalling, however, that resolution 598(1987) is a comprehensive peace plan, and certain of its elements have yet to be fulfilled, including its paragraph 8 which envisages the search for measures to enhance the stability and security of the region. This remains most relevant at this stage.

45. The Middle East as a whole continues to be the most explosive region of the world today. Longstanding grievances, which have festered for years, have been aggravated by an escalating arms race throughout the area, which has spawned a deadly arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. In the long run, lasting peace will come to the Middle East only when the principles of international law govern the relations between States, when disputes are resolved through peaceful means, when the aspirations of those deprived of their rights have been fulfilled, and regional security and economic arrangements-which take into account the concerns

of all the parties in the area-have been established.

III

46. It has been said that, twice in this century, after two devastating wars, the possibilities of building a peaceful global order were not fully realized. There is, of course, no doubt that the establishment of the world Organization, the adoption of its Charter, the liquidation of colonialism and the acceptance in principle of universal standards of human rights have been nothing less than new departures in history. However, the fact remains that no coherent strategy of peace was put in place. The reasons for this failure need hardly be recapitulated. What is beyond controversy is that we are now presented with a unique opportunity to work out such a strategy.

47. A refreshed political will and long-term thinking that is not overwhelmed by the perceptions and concerns of the moment is an absolute essential for seizing the opportunity. So is a clear understanding of the means that can be employed for making, keeping and building the peace. These three overlapping lines of endeavour need to be pursued with equal determination. As I have said earlier, it is the effort of peace-making or conflict resolution that sets the stage for, and determines, peace-keeping or conflict control. To gain time, and establish an environment, for the settlement of the dispute underlying a conflict is, of course, always an immediate necessity-this is the rationale of peace-keeping operations as traditionally understood. But it can sometimes result in temporizing if it is not accompanied by, or does not directly lead to, a negotiated solution of the dispute and, where necessary, an operation implementing that solution. Both these are to be seen as part of the wider effort of creating conditions in which the opposite claims or interests of States are purged of the character of violent hostility.

48. There has been a variety of situations over four decades in which the mounting of operations by the United Nations has been found indispensable. In essence, a United Nations peace-keeping operation is one which, mounted with the consent of the parties concerned, involves the deployment of international military personnel under an integrated command combined with civilian elements, all acting under the authority and discipline of the Organization, in order to stop or avert fighting and help facilitate or implement a settlement. As the consent of the parties concerned is crucial to their mandate, such operations are to be distinguished from measures under Chapter VII of the Charter.

49. From 1948 onwards, the United Nations has launched 18 operations, five of them during 1988 and 1989. Indeed, in recent years, the Organization's role in combinations of peace-keeping and peace-making has expanded impressively. The composite nature of these recent operations means that the tasks assigned to them have multiplied. The United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia provides a standing example of important civilian and police components working together with military elements to secure the implementation of a complex peace plan under its supervision and control. The delicate mission accomplished in Nicaragua also illustrated the versatile forms that undertakings assigned to the Secretariat by the competent organs of the United Nations can take.

50. The conditions for the success of these operations remain what they have always been: a precise and workable mandate, the consent and co-operation of the parties involved, the consistent support of the Security Council, the readiness of Member States to volunteer personnel and adequate financial arrangements. The presupposition in meeting all these conditions is freedom from uncertainty: doubts with regard to any one of them can jeopardize an operation, threaten the security of the personnel employed, imperil peace, cost human lives and, indeed, subvert the purpose of the undertaking. Moreover, a large and complex operation, such as the ones conducted in Namibia and likely to be decided upon in Cambodia, El

Salvador and Western Sahara, takes long planning and preparation, while the implementation of a settlement acquires an urgency as soon as it is agreed upon. It is extremely difficult to reconcile these two requirements in the Organization's existing administrative and financial situation. We are being asked to do more with fewer resources and even those are sometimes provided too late.

51. The disparity between responsibilities and resources can nowhere be as crippling-and dangerous-as in this matter. I call upon Member States to review again my proposals for the establishment of a reserve stock of basic peacekeeping equipment and supplies, earmarking of military personnel, assurance of the necessary logistical and technological support, increase in the working capital fund and dependable contributions of cash. It is also foreseeable that, in some cases, advance authority will need to be given to the Secretary-General to commit funds in order to enable him to set up the operation within a politically acceptable time-frame. The whole point is that we have reached a stage where limits to improvisation have come glaringly into view.

52. From the administrative point of view, peacekeeping operations have to be very closely coordinated, both at Headquarters and in the field. I have, for this purpose, set up a Senior Planning and Monitoring Group within the Secretariat.

53. The growing urge to resolve situations of conflict, the striking success of the operations in Namibia and Nicaragua and the prospect of those in Cambodia, El Salvador and Western Sahara have all encouraged reflections on the possible extension of the principles of United Nations operations to other situations not identical with those in which they have been mounted so far. I believe that some caveats are necessary on this point. Apart from the fact that United Nations operations require authorization by the competent organ, they are suitable only in cases which meet certain criteria. First, they are called for primarily in situations with a clear international dimension. Second, should they involve the monitoring of an election or referendum, they should cover the entire electoral process in order to secure conditions of fairness and impartiality. Where the induction of a United Nations presence in the electoral process of a State at a critical point in its political life is sought by the Government concerned and approved by the competent organ of the United Nations, it is necessary that there is broad public support in the State for the United Nations assuming such a role. Third, United Nations operations can be mounted only at clearly defined points in location and strategy, and not in situations of an indeterminate character.

54. Encouraging though the successes of operations mounted by the United Nations are and large though the range of their possible applications might be, the responsibility of negotiating settlements of international disputes or the obligation of accepting the terms laid down for them by the Security Council rests on the parties concerned. In a recent statement, the Security Council has stressed that a peace-keeping operation is essentially a temporary measure and that its mandate is not automatically renewable. Experience has shown that the mere continuance of a peacekeeping operation does not by itself generate movement towards a settlement. This is not a comforting thought, but it cannot be dismissed on that account.

55. To organize peace-making efforts in all situations of unresolved conflict is a primary challenge at the stage we have reached in the evolution of global society. There is now a manifest need to harness all available diplomatic capabilities for bringing about just and lasting resolution of conflicts that threaten or endanger the peace. These capabilities are not, and need not always be, employed solely through the United Nations.

56. Voluntary mediation outside the United Nations by Member States is, and will always remain, one of the means for the pacific settlement of disputes and also one of the ways in which Governments articulate their foreign policies and use or enhance their influence. What, however, needs to be carefully considered is how far the exertions made independently of the United Nations to resolve major regional conflicts have succeeded in cutting through the tangles and in narrowing the differences between the disputants to the

degree necessary for meaningful negotiations. The question involved here bears upon the potentialities of a focused and systematic multilateral effort as compared to its alternatives.

57. There seems to be a lingering impression that a diplomatic initiative by a Member State or regional organization, dispensing with the procedures of the United Nations, is tidier, quicker and likely to be more fruitful than one made through the United Nations. The evidence so far is at least ambiguous, if not altogether discouraging.

58. What distinguishes the handling of a dispute by the United Nations is that it permits full expression to all the relevant interests and viewpoints and does not seek to abridge any vital aspect of a situation, including the aspect of justice and human rights, for the sake of speedy disposal. Then again, in recent years, the United Nations has increasingly used methods-in the consultations of the Security Council and in the exercise of good offices by the Secretary-General-that have the effect of avoiding unproductive argument and of discerning the lines along which just solutions can be sought. It should now be evident that the United Nations is more than a forum of debate; it is also a place or vehicle of purposeful negotiations.

59. Here, a wider understanding is required from Member States, especially the most influential ones. Even with all its recent successes in the resolution of conflicts and its pronounced role in crisis management, the United Nations will still remain in danger of being bypassed and sidelined if, in pursuance of their interests, Member States individually or in regional groupings choose to undertake efforts which are not in harmony with those of the United Nations or the principles of the Charter. This is less a matter of upholding the prestige of the Organization than of avoiding incoherence, dispersal and fragmentation in the peace effort. The emergence of a collegial spirit among the permanent members of the Security Council provides an indispensable safeguard against this danger but, as I said in my report last year, 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. It is the willing endorsement of the decisions of the Security Council by the international community that can best counter any impression, likely to create anxiety, of world affairs being run by a directorate.

60. Apart from this, I believe that the peacemaking capacity of the United Nations would be considerably strengthened if the Security Council had a peace agenda that is not confined to items formally inscribed at the requests of Member States, and if it held periodic meetings to survey the political scene and identify points of danger at which preventive or anticipatory diplomacy is required. Since the proceedings of such meetings need not necessarily be published, they would encourage candid discussions without making parties to disputes harden their positions. Nor would the reports of the Secretary-General to such meetings amount to an invocation by him of Article 99 of the Charter. There is little use in encumbering the peace effort with formal procedures when such procedures are not likely to lead to results conducive to peace. Other ways to strengthen the Council's role in dealing with incipient disputes lie in improving factfinding arrangements, in establishing a United Nations presence in unstable areas and in instituting subsidiary bodies, where appropriate, for preventive diplomacy.

61. In this context, it needs to be stressed again that the means at present at the disposal of the Secretary-General for gathering the timely, accurate and unbiased information that is necessary for averting violent conflicts are inadequate. I made suggestions in this regard in my report last year and I would urge Member States to consider afresh ways of enabling the Secretariat to monitor potential conflict situations from a clearly impartial standpoint. The strategy of peace must reflect a better regard for timing than has been the case so far. The Organization's mediatory or investigative capacity should not be kept in reserve until it is too late to avert hostilities.

62. Once a dispute or a situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute is investigated and considered by the Security Council, it becomes the responsibility of the Council to

recommend appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment. The divisive and distracting factors that operated in the past and made the Council indecisive have now largely disappeared and we are faced with the question how to ensure that parties to disputes abide by the Council's resolutions.

63. This, in turn, raises the question of how best a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression can be countered through the resources of persuasion, influence or concerted pressure at the disposal of the Security Council. The essentiality of the provisions of Chapter VII to the system of collective security envisaged in the Charter is, of course, beyond doubt or dispute. Peace-making would lack the firmness and authority it needs if the Council were not in a position to issue salutary and credible warnings of enforcement measures and to resort to such measures when its warnings went unheeded. As the swift response to the challenge thrown by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has shown, the new atmosphere prevailing in the Security Council has for the first time enabled the Council to exercise the authority vested in it by the Charter.

64. Any situation calling for action under chapter VII of the Charter is certain to have its own peculiarities. However, it seems to be widely recognized that such action is a measure of last resort, which should not mean the abandonment of the necessary diplomatic effort to negotiate a solution in conformity with the principles of the Charter. Indeed, recourse to the provisions of enforcement must itself be consistently based on principle and a sense of equity and perceived to be so.

65. Moreover, the conditions of our time clearly suggest some of the requirements for enforcement action to succeed. In the economic sphere, the special problems arising for one or more States from the carrying out of measures under Chapter VII must be comprehensively foreseen and speedy remedies envisaged for them. Article 50 recognizes this need. In today's vastly more complicated and interdependent conditions as compared to those of four decades ago, this entails addressing the chain effects of economic action. In the political sphere, all measures of enforcement must be seen to issue from a collective engagement, which requires complete unity of aim as defined by the Council and which imposes a discipline all its own. The role of the Military Staff Committee in the making of plans for the application of armed force is clearly laid down in Articles 46 and 47 of the Charter. Then again, enforcement measures must be so applied that they do not cause an unintended economic or political fall-out which can outspread the specified area of involvement and defeat the original purpose of the action taken by the Council.

66. The rule of law in international affairs should also be promoted by a greater recourse to the International Court of Justice not only in adjudicating disputes of a legal nature but also in rendering advisory opinion on the legal aspects of a dispute. Article 96 of the Charter authorizes the General Assembly and the Security Council to request such an opinion from the Court. I believe that the extension of this authority to the Secretary-General would greatly add to the means of peaceful solutions of international crisis situations. The suggestion is prompted by the complementary relationship between the Security Council and the Secretary-General and by the consideration that almost all situations bearing upon international peace and security require the strenuous exercise of the good offices of the Secretary-General.

IV

67. To build peace and create conditions of stability in the world of the 1990s will require innovative responses to security challenges of a type radically different from those encountered in the past. The effort, however, will be adrift unless it is firmly anchored in the principles of the Charter and is perceived to be so. While some old models can no longer be used and some traditional categories of thought are now inadequate, the principles of international ethics and human rights articulated by the Charter still hold.

68. Today, in a growing number of cases, threats to national and international security are no longer as neatly separable as they were before. In not a few countries, civil strife takes a heavy toll of human life and has repercussions beyond national borders. The disintegration of the institutions of government and society in one country and senseless slaughter in another are two appalling instances. Separatism, by no means a rare phenomenon, causes strains on both the country directly affected and its immediate neighbours. Anarchy in one State means mass migrations which unsettle another. Then again, terrorism and drug trafficking cut across frontiers. So do environmental disasters. Furthermore, the rising consciousness of ethnic, linguistic or religious identities destabilizes some existing national formations while social breakdown in the wake of economic inequalities and the twin evils of poverty and repression tear apart the fabric of peace.

69. It seems that the era we are entering now may witness the institution of the nation-state being put on a harsher trial than any it has had to face in its history. Diverse forces are pulling it in diverse directions. In a politically stable environment, States are forming larger functional wholes; the outstanding example is the expected integration of the economies of the 12 industrial nations of Western Europe in 1992. Bearing in mind the trail of recurrent and internecine war blazed by nationalism in Europe until the middle of this century, this reformation carries a significance for the political evolution of the entire global community. On the opposite side, however, not a few States face the danger of decomposition as the sense of national affiliation is eroded by a variety of factors-political, economic or those relating to human rights. In many a case, fragile state structures are made even more vulnerable by lack of democratic accountability or by over-centralization. Extreme nationalism, violent ethnic rivalry, xenophobia and racial or cultural prejudice tend to fill a psychological void created by a perceived want of legitimacy or social justice. We cannot in this context forget that these destabilizing elements are not confined to any particular region of the world. Indeed, in the first half of this century, they led to cataclysmic consequences in Europe. Now, unless they are handled through ways implied in the Charter, they might ravage larger parts of the globe.

70. On a different level, economic forces make the nation-state more and more dependent on international co-operation. They do not permit that sense of self-sufficiency on which nationalism can thrive and isolationism take a stand. This is true both in settings of affluence and in conditions of deprivation. In the former case, with investment becoming increasingly transnational and horizontal alliances between corporations in different countries exerting greater weight on production, pricing, flow of resources and, to some extent, employment, it becomes more and more difficult for Governments to stabilize national economies without concerting policies with one another. Nor can the disruptive effects of hostile economic competition be dismissed. As for the less privileged countries, the very fact 'of dependence on external economic assistance entails profound political consequences. More often than not, the conditions on which it is rendered have an immediate impact on social situations.

71. How these processes will affect the world's political structure, whether the nation-state will be able to absorb the new pressures and, in so doing, undergo a change and how far into the future the present configuration of States will endure are questions that are difficult to answer, yet unwise to ignore. It is, however, plain that nationalism will become incapable of supporting State structures if it runs counter to international cooperation and becomes insensitive to the global concern for human rights.

72. Some people believe that the United Nations could develop an integrated plan for responding to these challenges. While such a plan might be conceivable in theory, it would be unworkable in practice as situations of diverse character arise. Moreover, not all the afflictions of societies can be remedied by multilateral action. The operative principles for such action derive from the full meaning of security in our time, from the relevance of economic and social developments to the issues of security and from the necessity to anticipate and prevent problems, help mitigate them should they occur and stimulate corrective measures to prevent them from recurring. This means maintaining a prompt, comprehensive and effective global watch rather than laying down a blueprint. It means monitoring transnational trends and developing

the authority of the United Nations to the commensurate level.

73. For dealing with the new kinds of security challenges, regional arrangements or agencies can render assistance of great value. This presupposes the existence of the relationship between the United Nations and regional arrangements envisaged in Chapter VIII of the Charter. The defusion of tensions between States and the pacific settlement of local disputes are, in many cases, matters appropriate for regional action. The proviso, however, is that the efforts of regional agencies should be in harmony with those of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter. This applies equally to regional arrangements in all areas of the globe, including those which might emerge in Europe. Moreover, the requirement stipulated in Article 54 of the Charter needs to be viewed not merely as a matter of form and procedure but as relating to the substance of the peace effort. If regional responses to situations affecting the maintenance of international peace and security and regional initiatives in dealing with them are supportive of the lines of policy indicated by the United Nations and do not sidetrack the United Nations, howsoever unwittingly, not only the coherence but also the effectiveness of a peace strategy would be greatly enhanced. Here again, it is the totality of the Charter rather than isolated elements of it that need to be brought to bear on the world situation.

74. There are many intangibles involved in the effort of building a just and stable order of peace that the world's statesmanship can discern. Some priorities have, however, been clearly identified through the work of the United Nations. The reduction of the level of weaponry and armed forces at the disposal of States, a universal human rights regime, a concerted response to the challenge posed by the deterioration of the environment and the population explosion, more equitable economic relations between nations and addressing the world's social problems are the main imperatives of the present situation. All bear upon peace.

V

75. A new security situation is being shaped at the global level by the rapid improvements in the relationship between East and West. Measures of disarmament, a long-sought goal of the international community, have finally moved into the realm of the possible.

76. We are witnessing a situation in which political developments have fast overtaken the cautious pace of negotiations to limit arms and armaments. The doctrines which dominated military thought and planning throughout the decades following the Second World War have suddenly lost their relevance and applicability. Appropriate security structures need to be found to replace the adversarial strategies of the past.

77. The significance of the current process goes far beyond the sheer numbers of arms and armed forces involved. It is now widely recognized that the process of creating a system of confidence-building measures is indispensable in removing the mistrust and misjudgements that have been the root causes of the arms race. This recognition has given new meaning to, and validated, the principle of seeking undiminished security at progressively lower levels of armaments and armed forces.

78. But to claim that we have navigated the rough waters and are now sheltered from the unexpected would be naive and dangerous. As the explosive developments in the Persian Gulf region have sharply demonstrated in the past few weeks, many challenges have to be squarely addressed before the present positive trend can be deemed irreversible and indeed world wide. A number of long-standing concerns still hinder peaceful relations, while new ones are added to the international agenda. The early 1990s provide an opportunity for arms limitation and disarmament that we cannot afford to squander.

79. The overarching question of nuclear weapons continues to pose a complex issue in the strategic equation.

Three concerns, however, deserve to be underscored in this context.

80. The first is the vital importance of progress in the bilateral negotiating process between the United States and the Soviet Union for deep cuts in their strategic arsenals. This process should eventually be expanded to incorporate all other types of nuclear weapons, including those of the other nuclear-weapon States. As long as the declared policies of some States do not contemplate a nuclear-free world it is difficult to foresee the elimination of all nuclear weapons. However, the fostering of a moral and political climate in which such weapons are stigmatized and foresworn is no longer utopian.

81. The second concern pertains to the cessation of nuclear-weapon tests about which differences still persist. The achievement of a comprehensive test-ban treaty must remain the prime objective, but pending its attainment the number of tests conducted each year and their respective yields should and can be significantly reduced.

82. The third concern focuses on the crucial need to maintain a viable regime for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was concluded in 1968, experience has revealed its shortcomings. It can be acknowledged that, in some ways, the Treaty imposes asymmetrical obligations. However, since no better arrangements have yet been devised, its basic aim of preventing nuclear proliferation must be upheld and promoted.

83. As we welcome the reduction of the nuclear stockpiles and hope that further reductions will follow, leading eventually to their elimination, it would be beyond reason to condone the emergence of any new nuclear-weapon State, potential or undeclared. The legitimate national security concerns of Member States must no doubt be fully met, but the acquisition of nuclear weapons by additional States would be as dangerous as the continuation of the nuclear-arms race among the nuclear-weapon States. Building effective barriers against nuclear-weapon proliferation, in all its aspects, must be a foremost priority. In this context I welcome the establishment of nuclear- weapon-free zones in regions in which the interests of the States concerned coincide and where there is wide international support for their establishment.

84. The primacy of the issue of nuclear weapons cannot, and should not, deflect attention from other weapons of mass destruction, which continue to be a cause of deep and widespread anxiety. Chemical weapons have proliferated alarmingly and there is appalling danger of their actual use in conflicts. The basic issues involved have been brought to the forefront of multilateral negotiations this year. However, the breakthrough that all of us had hoped for has not yet occurred. The remaining obstacles could be overcome by judicious compromise combined with a focus on the main goal. The meeting of the Conference on Disarmament that has been proposed at ministerial level could, with adequate preparation, contribute to this aim. The work necessary for presenting the convention for urgent adherence by all Member States needs to be completed expeditiously. This would be the most effective way to end the menace that the possession of chemical weapons poses to humanity.

85. At long last, the industrialized countries that dispose of the largest concentration of conventional weapons have come near to reaching agreements in Vienna about a major reduction of such weapons. However, this positive trend is not mirrored in other parts of the globe. The military expenditures of the developing countries have been estimated recently to be nearly one fifth of the budgets of central Governments. During the period when, owing to chronic tensions, the major Power blocs were engaged in an unending arms race, it was difficult to argue that developing countries should institute the process of real disarmament. Now that the global situation has taken a turn for the better, it should be feasible for countries to seek their security at the lowest possible levels of armed forces and armaments.

86. Since almost all developing countries are largely importers of arms, the decreasing arms transfers in recent years could be construed as a positive trend. However, this decline in weapons imports is primarily

due to the current economic difficulties experienced by developing countries rather than substantive changes in their defence postures. The basic prerequisite for reductions in military outlays and weapon purchases will be a change in the political climate marked by reduction of local tensions and the peaceful settlement of disputes as well as the development of regional confidence-building measures.

87. With significant arms reductions in prospect in Europe, the transfer of surplus weaponry to other parts of the world becomes a disturbing possibility. This gives added urgency to the quest for ways of restraining such transfers; all arms-supplying countries need to be mindful of their responsibility in this respect. I would urge earnest consideration to be given to establishing an international arms transfer register as a step towards curbing what has been a burgeoning trade.

88. It is, of course, vitally important to provide developing countries unimpeded access to the benefits of modern science and technology. This, however, should not mean that the quantitative arms race is replaced by a qualitative one and high-technology weapons are introduced that would destabilize regional and even global security. I would suggest that the international community make a special effort to clarify the important issues involved and produce clear and fair guidelines acceptable to all. This would remove a great deal of apprehension in a large number of countries that are affected by the supply policies currently applied by exporters of technology.

89. The process of transition from military to civilian economies may be unsettling and cause some economic disruptions in the short run, but apprehensions on that score must be allayed by considerations of the long-term benefits. A wider exchange of experiences and international cooperation in the area of conversion could help the adjustment process. I believe that the modalities and forms of such exchanges and cooperation will need to be elaborated. Recently, the Secretariat has organized several forums at which high-level discussions have deepened awareness of the issues involved.

90. The turn for the better in the field of arms limitation provides an impetus and a fresh sense of purpose to the disarmament machinery within the framework of the Organization. The United Nations Disarmament Commission has been reinvigorated by the recent rationalization of its work. The time is ripe to consider streamlining the work of other disarmament bodies as well. This is necessary for enabling the Organization to cope with issues requiring a concerted international effort.

VI

91. Resolution of conflicts, observance of human rights and the promotion of development together weave the fabric of peace; if one of these strands is removed, the tissue will unravel.

92. This has been a motif of the thought and work of the United Nations over the years. Current experience strongly confirms the truth that respect for the organs and institutions of the State, national cohesion, the viability of political systems or social ideologies, sustained economic development and the stability of the international order all greatly depend on the observance and promotion of human rights.

93. The past year has seen the conversion of human rights from a subsidiary theme of the international discourse to a dominant concern. All over the world, there is a resurgent awareness that no social or political dispensation can, or should, endure that does not respect the dignity and worth of the human person, the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.

94. From its very inception, the United Nations has engaged itself in elaborating human rights instruments and establishing bench-marks against which standards of behaviour can be measured. It has provided the world community with the International Bill of Human Rights, consisting of the Universal Declaration and

the two International Covenants, under which the protection of fundamental rights is accepted as a permanent obligation. Under the Organization's auspices, many other legal instruments have been adopted to define these rights in various contexts. The 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development laid a basis for the integration of human rights concepts into the planning, execution and evaluation of development projects so that respect for human rights and the effectiveness of these projects are both strengthened and secured. The process of incorporating human rights in international conventions is a continuous one. This year, a proposal before the international community is the convention to protect the rights of migrant workers and their families-a group that is among the weakest and most vulnerable in society.

95. Legal instruments, however, provide but the foundation on which the structure of human rights can be based. It needs initiative, tact, opportunity and co-operation to secure their implementation. Very often, for instance, the Secretary-General has to exercise his good offices in this regard with the utmost confidentiality lest they prove counter-productive. There can be little doubt, however, of the faith and expectations that peoples all over the world place in the efforts of the United Nations to restore human rights where they are denied or violated.

96. The promising advances of the past year in democracy and human rights should not, however, let us forget the remorseless realities of the world in which we live. Hardly a day passes without bringing news of torture, killings, disappearances of individuals, firing on unarmed demonstrators, of violent suppression of dissidence, of discrimination and deprivation, which point up the gulf between our legal instrumentation and the conditions in which so many of our fellow human beings are condemned to live.

97. Our aim must be to narrow the gulf between aspiration and fact. Strong and effective international norms are essential, but they are not sufficient. At the national level, a deep-rooted and persuasive human rights culture and the means for its implementation must be nurtured and developed. The World Campaign for Human Rights launched by the United Nations seeks to create a focused awareness of the importance and content of human rights. Another programme for rendering services and technical assistance seeks to further the creation and enhancement of national human rights infrastructures.

98. In striving to meet the human rights aspirations of all regions, the United Nations relies upon the commitment of non-governmental organizations and the courage and self-sacrifice of individuals throughout the world. They at times put their lives at risk to promote and secure human rights and they deserve our admiration and support. Our Organization should give its close attention to ways and means of assisting and protecting them in their tasks and of stimulating popular association with our ceaseless effort to make a human rights regime encompass the whole world.

99. The responsibility of the United Nations to monitor human rights situations has also become easier through the ability of the mass media, particularly through the work of conscientious correspondents, to report infringements of the norms of conduct. In many cases, if not all, gross violations of human rights are rapidly flashed around the globe and arouse moral outrage and protest. This, however, does not always act as an effective deterrent against the flouting of standards agreed to by the international community. The Organization's vigilance should ensure that the human wrongs committed are exposed and condemned so as to prevent their recurrence.

100. As progress is achieved, demands and expectations rise and the challenges before us continue to grow. I believe that much is at stake in our ability to meet them.

VII

101. The Charter of the United Nations governs relations between States. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights pertains to relations between the State and the individual. The time has come to devise a covenant regulating relations between humankind and nature.

102. At present, human beings in their many activities have turned into nature's foes. Now nature is sending us a message: protect nature and survive or destroy nature and perish.

103. Nearly two decades have passed since the United Nations first put the question of the environment on the global agenda. Although the deterioration of the environment has not yet been arrested, there has been a universal awakening to the profound dangers involved. The solidarity of nations in resolving to meet this unprecedented challenge has been one of the most reassuring phenomena of recent years. The emergence of an "earth patriotism" has led to co-operative efforts at the national and the international levels to ensure that future generations inherit a revived planet. It is now generally acknowledged that both greed and waste, among the economically privileged, and the desperate struggle for survival, among the poor, have despoiled the resources of the earth.

104. While much has been done in the last few years, the campaign to restore the ecological health of our planet has only just begun. It is obviously necessary to develop an approach which addresses the interrelated issues of environment and economic development in a balanced way, taking into account the legitimate concerns of the developing countries. Indeed, now that the gulf between East and West has closed and there is a sense of common concern, the world community is provided with a long-sought opportunity to refocus its attention on the economic, social and environmental agenda and to adopt a blueprint for concerted action towards environmentally sound and sustainable development. The questions involved bring into sharp relief the interdependence of nations, rich and poor. By their very nature, therefore, they can stimulate perceptions and attitudes which should narrow the gulf between the North and the South.

105. The Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992, will consider conventions on such critical issues as climate change and biological diversity. It will endeavour to draw up agreements on basic principles to guide international behaviour and co-operation in respect of environment and development and address the complex issues involved in a comprehensive and integrated manner. It will also set an agenda for action into the twenty-first century, and consider the strengthening of relevant institutional mechanisms and processes. As we prepare for it, we must step up our efforts at all levels to prevent further environmental degradation. In this context, I welcome the results achieved at the World Climate Conference in London and at the meeting at Bergen held this year as part of the overall effort, in association with the United Nations system, to create better understanding of the problem and promote the search for solutions.

106. The initiative for halting environmental damage must no doubt lie, in the first place, with each country, and efforts are indeed being undertaken at the national and regional levels. New partnerships will need to be forged between Governments, the scientific community, industry, media and non-governmental and grass-roots organizations, to ensure the widest possible participation in this effort. Much work has also been done at the multilateral level. Last year, the Montreal Protocol on ozone depletion, adopted in 1987, came into force. An important step was taken when additional measures were subsequently agreed upon to meet the special needs of developing countries and a fund was established to facilitate transfer of ozone non-depleting technology to them.

107. A study has been under way, again under the auspices of the United Nations, of the pace, nature and impact of climatic change, and a conference scheduled to take place later this year will constitute another step forward in framing measures to halt the dangerous development of the greenhouse effect. These efforts will culminate. I hope, in the adoption of an international convention on climate change that is expected to be ready for signature at the Conference in 1992.

108. The increasing support being given to the Convention on the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes, which was adopted in Basel last year, has been encouraging. Additional guidelines on international trade in certain chemicals have been elaborated, and international codes of conduct, such as the one on the distribution and use of pesticides, expanded and refined. Other measures before the international community focus on building a network of monitoring, research and exchange of data on issues such as transboundary air pollution. An information exchange system continues to expand globally, responding to queries on environmental problems.

109. We do not have the excuse of ignorance now. The road towards environmental improvement is long, but the journey began with the recognition of our common vulnerability. It is nothing but a movement for survival.

VIII

110. The forces and pressures of economic life can pull nations together or they can drive them apart. One of the great challenges of the new era is to realize the possibilities of genuine co-operation to the maximum extent that the world's resources and capacities will permit. Lasting peace will necessarily require an improvement in the human condition. This, in turn, can only be achieved through productive patterns of interaction among all members of the international community. For this a renewed commitment and more focused efforts are required to stimulate and achieve economic development and social progress, particularly in the developing countries.

111. For over 40 years, tension between two ideological blocs influenced and shaped not only political systems but also economic relations. The world invested enormous resources, financial and human, in developing ingenious means for its own destruction. Now, in the post-cold war world, we have the opportunity to evolve a framework for equitable economic relations as well as security arrangements. This need assumes even greater importance as East-West ideological differences are replaced by the threat of global and regional tensions due to economic and social factors. An aspect of the present crisis in the Middle East is a grim reminder of the disruptive effects of disagreement on the price and supply of a crucial commodity.

112. The 1980s showed how elusive was the promise of the 1960s and the 1970s for economic betterment and social progress. Although a few countries, most of them in Asia, have made notable progress, three continents, by and large, are no better off today, and a disconcertingly large proportion of their populations are worse off than they were before those decades of hope and high aspirations. The great advances made in science and technology convince us further that it is both possible and necessary to ensure a better future for that large segment of humanity whose constant companion is hunger and disease.

113. We seem to forget that it is people who must be at the centre of all development and that their well-being cannot be assessed in monetary terms alone. A recent report prepared by the United Nations Development Programme analyses how economic growth translates-r fails to translate-into improving human lives. There has been encouraging progress in some countries in basic human development indicators such as life expectancy, literacy, nutrition and child mortality. But overall there has been an increase in poverty, disease and deprivation. Over-population and rapid urbanization not only create economic and social problems but also endanger security. Every year, they add millions to the poorest of the world, stifling development efforts and causing alarming increases in social ills such as crime and drug addiction.

114. If not addressed effectively, the cycle of poverty, population growth, low commodity prices, debt, economic stagnation, destruction of the environment, arms expenditure and the erosion of the social

structures in many developing countries will undermine the stability of a global order of peace. Without concerted international action this could cause political, economic and social disorder across the globe. No nation can expect to remain unaffected. There is no room for complacency.

115. Development must, of course, rest on national efforts to build the necessary institutions and frame the policies through which it can flourish and be shared by all. If the will to do so is lacking or distracted, there are very narrow limits to what the international community can do to promote it. But where those national efforts have been seriously embarked upon they need external support and help. Unfortunately, the international economic environment has often frustrated what years of arduous development effort and foreign aid tried to achieve.

116. Almost 10 years of depressed commodity prices, increasing debt-servicing burden and under-funded structural adjustment programmes have seriously weakened the economies of a large number of developing countries and dangerously eroded the social cohesion in these societies.

117. Development has especially suffered in African countries. Their terms of trade have worsened more than those of any other continent and their infrastructure continues to be inadequate and is eroding in many countries. The international community needs to act speedily to augment support for Africa, particularly through increases in financial flows, debt forgiveness, trade liberalization and appropriate measures to deal with the commodity problem, including the stabilization of commodity prices.

118. The least developed countries, most of which are in Africa, face acute problems and remain marginalized in the fundamental transformations that are taking place in the world economy. At the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries efforts are under way to identify impediments to their development, and agree on urgent and far-reaching measures to reverse the present trends.

119. The distortions in the international economy are also reflected at the national level where parallel societies are growing apart, one rich and privileged and the other poor and dispossessed. In developing countries, it means the emergence of two societies, one having access to the levers of power and the other lacking it; the result is political and social instability. In industrialized societies, it manifests itself in tension and crime. National economic policies must address these contradictions and ensure that economic and social progress is shared by all.

120. At the present time, a number of short-term exigencies present themselves to the international community as the result of the crisis in the Middle East. The ability of the United Nations to cope with man-made disasters is once again being put to the test. It is apparent that the repercussions of this crisis will aggravate the economic problems of the international community and can wreak havoc on the economies of certain countries. The severity of these costs will depend on whether the conflict can be contained and how it is resolved. This notwithstanding, serious efforts need to be urgently made to mitigate the economic and social consequences of this crisis and to see how to provide a safety net for developing countries ill-equipped to cope with such situations.

121. Whatever the outcome of the present crisis, some issues of longer standing seem particularly important, all of them calling for far-sightedness and imagination in finding an adequate international response that would enable the developing countries to renew the process of growth and development.

122. The first is the problem of external indebtedness of the developing countries. It is now obvious that the magnitude and seriousness of this problem demands a comprehensive and truly decisive approach. The progressive deepening of the debt crisis, since 1982, constitutes a grave threat to the political, social and economic order in many of the affected countries. It is also a burdensome constraint on the international economy with adverse consequences even for creditor countries.

123. The most debilitating consequence of the debt problem is the large net transfers of financial resources from debtor countries to their creditors. Developing countries, which need to supplement their meagre internal savings with external finance, have now for over 10 years been providing the world economy with resources which they themselves urgently require for their own development. In 1989 alone, this net outflow of resources amounted to \$US26 billion. These negative transfers must be eliminated quickly and eventually reversed. Debt and debt-service reduction have a central role to play in this regard. The ongoing efforts by private and official creditors as well as by multilateral financial institutions to address the debt problem need urgently to be broadened and intensified. A number of new and practical ideas for addressing commercial as well as official debt are now available, and I welcome the interest elicited by the report on external debt recently submitted by my personal representative.

124. Second, but equally critical, is the question of the international trade regime and the soon to be concluded Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The declared commitment of the industrialized countries to achieve substantial results is encouraging. However, the negotiations so far reveal that the interests and concerns of the economically weaker developing countries are not being fully taken into consideration. A balanced outcome that benefits all nations and that secures access for developing countries to the existing trading blocs as well as to the emerging big markets should be the main objective of the Uruguay Round. The vulnerability of the developing countries in these negotiations must not be used to extend or impose the national interests of major trading countries in ways detrimental to the functioning of the international trade and payments system over the long run.

125. Third, the instability and the continued depressed prices for commodities, which are the prime source of export earnings for most of the developing countries in Africa and Latin America, and to some extent Asia, are further impeding their efforts to diversify and revitalize their economies. Policies for diversification of these economies will need to be pursued and supported in a variety of ways, including the promotion of greater stability and higher commodity prices. To a large extent, existing commodity agreements have suffered and indeed failed to achieve their objectives because of inadequate financial resources. There is need to examine anew the modalities and functioning of international commodity agreements with a view to ensuring their effectiveness for both producers and consumers.

126. Fourth, the process of integration of the Soviet and the Eastern European economies into the international financial and trading regimes needs to be supported to ensure a smooth transition. The opening of this region to international trade presents a great opportunity for the world economy as a whole. Our common objective must be to ensure a positive transformation of Eastern European countries concurrently with the development of the developing countries. The commitment of the industrialized countries not to weaken their support for the developing nations is therefore central to this objective.

127. The complexity of international global economic problems, their interrelationships and their close links with social and political issues dictate a sounder management of the global economy. Already, the economic integration of Western Europe and the creation of trading blocs are raising apprehensions about access to these markets. It is also feared that these developments may lead to a fragmentation of the international trading system, exacerbate existing trade tensions and further marginalize the majority of the developing countries. I am also concerned about the increased reliance on bilateral and plurilateral arrangements rather than on multilateral rules for trade liberalization.

128. Conditions at the end of the Second World War influenced the shaping of international institutional arrangements for political and economic relations in the post-war period. For the past 25 years, major industrialized countries have periodically sought to co-ordinate their macroeconomic policies outside the framework of existing multilateral institutions with varying degrees of success. Now, the more complex challenges of a new era such as preserving the health of our planet and combating drug abuse demand a

global response. Systematic and institutionalized co-ordination of the global economy within these institutions would help achieve greater coherence in national and international strategies for economic and social development and ensure more disciplined economic behaviour by all.

129. We must utilize the experience of the past to develop a vision for our common future. The weaknesses and the strengths not only of the competing ideologies but also of a world order reflecting tension between them have become quite apparent. We know that the restructuring of economic systems will not by itself satisfy popular aspirations for social justice and equity. Indeed, the fundamental principles of social welfare and services, such as education, medical care, social security, housing and employment, will remain valid whatever the orientation of the ideology pursued.

130. A process of serious evaluation and a subtle transformation of international institutions has already begun. A more equitable and efficient system of economic relations should benefit from their strengths and advantages. At its special session on international co-operation last April, the General Assembly reaffirmed the special role of the Organization as a forum where central issues of importance to humanity can be addressed in an integrated manner. The renewal of multilateralism will enhance the capacity of the United Nations to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the post-cold war international order.

131. The transition to that order will inevitably be fraught with difficulties. During this period, we may witness intense competition among economic super-Powers or blocs not only to gain economic advantage but also to influence the shaping of the new rules of the game. The consequences for the global economy could be serious. The economic tension will affect prospects of a more peaceful international atmosphere where objectives of development and social progress could be pursued with greater determination. In these circumstances, how the United Nations, and particularly the Economic and Social Council, effectively addresses economic concerns and promotes legitimate aspirations in order to forestall conflict and reduce tensions assumes particular urgency.

132. The growing international consensus is contributing to a greater awareness of the close relationship between political and security considerations and economic and social issues. As the work of the Security Council demonstrates a new sense of purpose and a fresh determination to protect and promote peace, one should like to see a similar development in the Economic and Social Council. In this context, I welcome the decision of the Council to consider the implications of the evolution of the East-West relations for the world economy, and in particular the developing countries, at a high-level special meeting next year. I have consistently maintained that high-level and more focused meetings of the Council on important policy questions and developments will have a positive impact on the role and functioning of this body. A revitalized Council, meeting at ministerial level, could provide the framework for evolving economic and social policy guidelines which contribute to the process of promoting stability based on balanced economic development and social justice.

133. There is, however, a need for the United Nations, including its intergovernmental structures in the economic and social sector, to be more responsive to the emerging needs of, and new challenges faced by, the international community. As political rhetoric recedes, a higher degree of specialization will be needed to strengthen the technical underpinnings for the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

IX

134. The sources of disorder and potential conflict in the world today are not confined to political tensions and economic disparities. An equal cause of derangement is the social crisis that has crossed all frontiers, regional or cultural. Now that common sense is beginning to replace the ideological obsessions of yesterday,

sustained attention must be devoted to the ills that afflict society at present. Neither can diagnosis be attempted nor remedies prescribed in terms of one nation or group of nations alone; both approach and action need to be global.

135. The scourge that has been caused by widespread psychological and social dislocation takes its most pronounced form in drug abuse and trafficking. This inflicts damage at all levels: in addition to the strain on familial and social relations, there is the high cost to society in general-in terms of health care, in increased risk of accidents, in lost industrial productivity, and in the higher incidence of crime and threats to the civic order which have been the cause of so much misery in so many countries. Another danger associated with intravenous drug abusers is the high risk of spreading the AIDS pandemic.

136. The General Assembly, at its last session, took drug-abuse control as one of its main themes. This was followed by the convening of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, concentrating specifically on drugs. It led to the adoption of a political declaration and a global programme of action which will entail an improvement and widening of our existing efforts to combat drug abuse.

137. As with so many other programmes requiring priority attention, the resources currently available to the United Nations for drug abuse control are paltry compared to the magnitude of the problem. In order to make a tangible impact on drug abuse and trafficking worldwide, very considerable additional funding would be necessary. Moreover, our existing institutional arrangements need to be streamlined and made more effective-a matter under serious consideration at present.

138. Comprehensive legal instruments have been drawn up over the years within the framework of the United Nations, culminating in the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Convention will enter into force later this year. I would urge States that have not done so to ratify it without further delay and, even before this, to implement its provisions rigorously in order to fight this pestilence.

139. One of the darker aspects of the rapid societal change of the recent past is the upsurge in crime in many countries, particularly in its organized and transnational forms. This year, the Organization convened the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders at Havana. The Congress adopted important operational guidelines, standards and model agreements, which aim at intensifying the fight against crime at the national, regional and international levels and further improving the performance of criminal justice systems.

140. The growing world-wide recognition of the need to strengthen the rule of law in international relations was crystallized, at the last session of the General Assembly, in the declaration of the 1990s as the Decade of International Law. A notable achievement in this context, after nine years of negotiations, was the adoption by the General Assembly of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. This Convention will outlaw the activities of soldiers of fortune who so often were employed to destabilize the countries in which they operated and who indulged in plunder with impunity.

141. The campaign against grave afflictions is only one part of the global social strategy. Equally important is constructive action to revive basic social institutions and to end discrimination against, or ill-treatment of, some of society's major segments.

142. At the root of the problems confronting us is the breakup of basic social structures, leaving the individual shelterless against violent social pressures and disruptions. As the family is the basic unit of society, an agent of development as well as a support for the individual, the General Assembly last year decided to observe 1994 as the International Year of the Family. Fundamentally important in this context is the role of women. The recent activities of the world Organization on their behalf have included an appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, five years

after their adoption, and the decision taken to convene a World Conference on Women in 1995. The tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was another milestone: 103 Member States have ratified or acceded to the Convention.

143. It is children, however, who are the most vulnerable segment of society. The United Nations Children's Fund supported the initiative of Heads of State to hold a World Summit for Children here at United Nations Headquarters this year in order to promote commitment, at the highest political level, to goals and strategies for ensuring the survival, protection and well-being of children as key elements in social development. The occasion is remarkable for being the first summit of leaders from the North, the South, the East and the West and thus facilitating dialogue on a universal scale. Further efforts will have to be planned to address those issues that will most critically affect children in the decades ahead.

144. Last year, a landmark was reached when the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the first legal instrument to define and lend content to children's rightful status in society. The emergence of an international consensus for strengthened multilateral co-operation focusing on children can be a development of far-reaching significance. It is particularly encouraging that this Convention came into force earlier this month, which was less than a year after its adoption-a very rapid pace indeed for an international treaty.

145. It is, however, chastening to observe that much of the progress we are making in repairing social structures and protecting the rights of women and children is threatened, and often reversed, by the explosion in population. The global population, now standing at 5.3 billion, increases by 250,000 every single day, or almost 1 billion in the span of 10 years. Well over 90 per cent of that growth will occur in the poorest countries. There is thus an unmanageable increase in the numbers to be fed, clothed and sheltered. This has over-strained the capacity of developing countries to provide employment, housing, infrastructure and related services. Unless this trend is arrested, there will be social chaos in large parts of the world.

146. Experience has shown that population and family planning programmes, working in unison with other social and economic development efforts, are effective in leading to the desired result. The freedom of choice that flows from improved access to family planning, education and health care and enhanced status for women is crucial.

147. Efforts in this field need to be strengthened. The International Meeting on Population, planned for 1994, will provide a much-needed opportunity to review progress at the mid-point of the decade. At the same time, the world Organization will need to implement the provisions of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and deal with the increasing environmental degradation in order to provide the most basic needs for the world's peoples.

X

148. Forty years ago, the hope was entertained that the refugee problem would be temporary and easily manageable. The fact that the United Nations, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, has to cope with refugee situations in undiminished numbers testifies to the frequency, persistence and severity of conflicts in the world today.

149. Regional conflicts continue to cause mass migrations. The exodus caused by the current crisis in the Persian Gulf is a most painful example of the disruptions in the lives of human beings, which are due to political upheavals. Some refugee situations have persisted and durable solutions have to be found for them.

The international environment has become generally less receptive for refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons.

150. In Africa, civil strife continues to take a mounting toll of human lives. Grave social problems have developed with increasing numbers of internally and externally displaced people, the destruction of towns and villages and the isolation by war of communities from sources of essential supplies. The result has been destitution, homelessness and famine on a large scale.

151. In most cases, the Governments concerned have sought the help of the United Nations system. I have repeatedly emphasized that the cardinal principle of humanitarian programmes is that such help is neutral in nature and must be made available without discrimination to all in need and regardless of their location. It is equally vital that relief operations are assured of the full support and co-operation of the parties to the conflict, and that United Nations relief convoys and relief workers are given safe and secure access to the intended beneficiaries.

152. The settlement of political issues in some areas has brought immediate relief. In Namibia, for example, thousands of Namibians were repatriated as part of the independence plan for that country. Significant progress is also being made in South Africa, giving rise to the hope that a political settlement will bring an end to the conditions that have caused several thousand South Africans to seek refuge outside their country. This could also have a beneficial impact on an even larger number of Mozambicans who have been uprooted and displaced. In Central America, members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and their families were voluntarily demobilized and are being repatriated, and their safety upon return monitored. Voluntary repatriation of Salvadorians increased in late 1989 and early 1990.

153. Contrasted with these encouraging developments, however, are instances where initial expectations of settlement have not yet been fulfilled. Stalled by the difficult political situation in Afghanistan, over 3 million refugees remain in Pakistan, and over 2 million in Iran. The situation in Cambodia also awaits a political agreement, making the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons currently impossible. This means that the situation of refugees in South-East Asia, including Vietnamese and Lao asylum-seekers and refugees, continues to be a serious problem for the international community.

154. In Africa, despite progress in the southern part of the continent, the numbers of refugees are increasing. Malawi, Somalia, the Sudan, Uganda, and, most recently, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone, all experienced additional or new influxes. Events in Mauritania and Senegal caused large-scale displacement of people from both countries. The biggest influx has been of nearly 500,000 Liberians escaping civil strife in their country.

155. To partially alleviate the human suffering, emergency assistance is rendered in difficult geographical conditions, marked by a desperate lack of resources and infrastructure. In cooperation with other agencies, the World Food Programme acts promptly to relieve hunger to the extent its resources permit.

156. Natural disasters also cause death, suffering and displacement on a large scale. It is a preoccupation of the Organization to provide help through the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. The United Nations has taken a new approach to mitigate their catastrophic effects. The declaration by the General Assembly of the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction embodies a significant conceptual move from post-disaster response to pre-disaster preparedness. Too often in recent years the world has experienced huge population losses and immense economic plight due to endemic weaknesses in housing, infrastructure and other resources essential for rehabilitation. Considering recent earthquakes in the Soviet Union and Mexico, and this year in Iran and the Philippines, it is plain that the advances made by science and technology in our age could be utilized to minimize the devastation caused by

such occurrences in vulnerable areas.

XI

157. It is clear from the foregoing that the past year has brought new tasks and fresh challenges, some unprecedented, to the Organization. Many new initiatives are already in prospect, and we enter the decade with greater capability to fulfil the enlarged role that is being assigned to the Organization. Additional responsibilities, however, mean new administrative and financial requirements.

158. Following the reform programme instituted by General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Secretariat has undergone a major internal restructuring and considerable reduction in staff. At the same time, new procedures have enhanced mutual confidence between Member States and the Secretariat in administrative and financial matters. By adopting all relevant resolutions without a vote, the last session of the General Assembly showed greater convergence of views on questions related to administration, budget and management. Equally encouraging were the consensus votes on revised estimates and the programme budget for 1990-1991.

159. The reforms in the budgetary process have thus concluded the first cycle and, I believe, have largely achieved their purpose. They have brought about a better awareness among Member States-and within the Secretariat-of the way in which the United Nations utilizes its resources, and encouraged their more judicious use. They have also largely allayed the concerns of the major contributors. This is the result of fruitful co-operation between all Member States and the Secretariat.

160. A fundamental requirement for enhanced organizational effectiveness is the availability of relevant and accurate information to managers. The creation of an integrated management information system that I proposed will facilitate decentralized management, while providing centralized access worldwide. This system, which is scheduled to become operational in 1993, will enable us to analyse, plan and allocate resources in the most efficient manner.

161. The extraordinary expansion in field operations combining peace-making and peacekeeping has stretched both our human and financial resources. This is evident at the planning and preparatory as well as the executory stages. Early and sound planning is essential to promote the chances of success, especially in cases of complex, multi-functional operations working within a narrow time-frame-of which the Namibia undertaking was a prime example.

162. Unfortunately, such thorough advance preparation has become increasingly difficult because of the overall depletion in the Organization's resources. I find it inexplicable that many Member States of the United Nations fail to fulfil their financial obligations on time and in full, thus endangering the Organization's financial stability. To date this year, only 57 Governments have fully paid their assessed contributions for the regular budget. Currently, the Organization is owed about \$660 million by its Members for the regular budget, which means that we have funds for only 24 further days of operation. Moreover, peace-keeping assessments unpaid by Member States now total an additional \$436 million.

163. This is the bleak picture at a time when many hopes and expectations are being placed in the work of the United Nations. Day by day, new initiatives are brought to its legislative bodies: in peace-making or peace-keeping, in such matters as human rights, environmental protection and narcotics control, as well as in many other areas wherein co-ordination through the United Nations is vital. The weakness of the Organization's finances jeopardizes the desired projects, despite all the economies and the reforms we have effected. If all Governments do not meet their financial obligations fully, and within the proper time-frame,

the Organization will not be able to play the role expected of it by the Governments and peoples of the world. That dismaying moment could be close at hand.

164. These circumstances of inability and constraint provide an ironical contrast to the impressive dedication and the skills demonstrated by the Organization's staff, often under extremely trying circumstances, in field operations and missions. Equally, staff at Headquarters have admirably shouldered increased responsibilities due to post reductions and to the absence of key personnel serving in missions abroad. The high standard of performance expected of United Nations staff has again pointed to the need to employ men and women of the highest calibre, with the widest geographical distribution and range of skills. Unfortunately, the United Nations has fallen seriously behind in the level of remuneration it offers and is, in many fields, no longer financially competitive. This fact is well known to Member States and I would urge them to earnestly consider remedial action. It should be recognized that the present situation affects the Organization's capacity to deliver results and it weakens the morale of the staff, which is so highly important at a time when the Organization is undergoing rapid change and when such heavy demands are being placed on its human resources.

XII

165. Public perceptions of the United Nations, of its essentiality and its work have radically changed during the last two years. While earlier it was regarded in some circles as a tower of Babel and at best avenue for often fruitless diplomatic parleys, it is now seen as a centre of agreement and decision, a barrier against chaos in international relations and the one institution which can best assure that the actions of nations are governed by international law and respond to the demands of justice.

166. I believe this carries important policy implications for the Governments of Member States. They can draw strength from the widening peace constituency which exists in all countries-and whose concerns are so well articulated by nongovernmental organizations, especially in the fields of disarmament, human rights and the environment. However, to do this and to be able in difficult situations to adjust their attitudes and policies to the Charter of the United Nations, Governments need to regard the Organization as a source of unique assistance to them in unravelling issues which touch other nations, in settling international disputes and in responding to the emerging challenges confronting the global society. The Charter needs to be viewed not as an external and onerous appendage but as a body of principles which must govern the life of every nation.

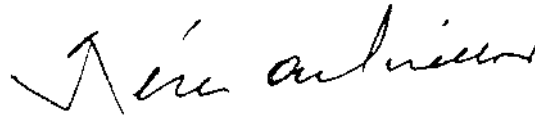
167. There is not, and there cannot be, an adversarial relation between the United Nations and any Member State. In situations of conflict, only the procedures of multilateralism as developed and employed by the United Nations can offer justice and dignified disengagement to the parties involved and to their supporters.

168. If there is anything plain from the evolution of international affairs, it is that neither in the current nor in any foreseeable situation can there be any Power or group of Powers which will have a limitless freedom of manoeuvre and the political capability to impose its own values or world view on others. This, however, does not detract in the slightest degree from the position of respect that a Power or group of Powers can command at the United Nations through its resources of knowledge and experience and its ability to take a lead in shaping the universal agenda. A changing, turbulent world may not sustain hegemonies, global or regional, but it is receptive to influence, especially the influence that comes from statesmanship and consistent conformity with international law. The greater the Power, the higher is the responsibility to act and to be seen to act with justice. This is true as much of States as of the Organization as a whole and of its organs.

169. I believe that it has been a wholesome development of recent years that the international discourse has

been disburdened of excessive ideological or rhetorical baggage. It is far easier to accommodate contentious interests or claims, honestly stated, than to reconcile opposing doctrines. If the new mood of pragmatism which has released us from the thralldom of the cold war is to spread all over the world, nations need to shed the vestigial prejudices of former times and couch their dialogue in terms of common sense and plain justice. International morality should not be confused with moralistic stances which can conceal the truth of a situation. Since notions of legitimacy are sometimes bound to clash, the only safeguard against issues becoming intractable is recourse to the principles stated in the Charter and accepted by all nations.

170. A formative point has been reached in the world's struggle towards stability and well-being. Stability will not mean stasis. Peace will not bring the cessation of all conflict. It will only make conflicts manageable through means other than force or intimidation. In the words of one of the intellectual progenitors of the United Nations, Immanuel Kant, peace will mean "equilibrium in liveliest competition". The United Nations seeks to train our vision towards that end.

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. 27-37)

International peace and security

The United Nations in 1990 continued efforts to help resolve persistent conflicts and to address new situations in various parts of the globe deemed to pose a threat to international peace and security.

The General Assembly stressed the need for further strengthening the role of the Organization in the maintenance of peace and security and in promoting respect for international law. In that regard, it encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to examine all aspects of peace-keeping operations to ensure that they were conducted in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Noting that those operations had become a valuable instrument in facilitating the settlement of international disputes, the Security Council affirmed its readiness to launch new peace-keeping operations as necessary in the interest of international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

With respect to regional security problems, the Assembly urged co-operation with the Mediterranean States with a view to reducing tension, promoting peace and security and ensuring stability, prosperity and support for democratic processes. It called for co-operation in the promotion of the objectives of the 1986 declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic and for ensuring the protection of the region from environmental damage.

Part one: Political and security questions

Chapter II (pp. 38-91)

Disarmament

The United Nations in 1990 continued to play a major role in global and regional efforts to achieve disarmament. In December, the General Assembly declared the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, stressing its desire that the current momentum in the disarmament process be maintained, and its conviction that the Third Decade would accelerate that process.

Nuclear disarmament and related topics were the subject of many of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the world body at its forty-fifth session, including those related to bilateral negotiations, cessation of nuclear tests, a nuclear freeze, and strengthening the security of nonnuclear-weapon States, among others. In August, the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was convened in Geneva. The General Assembly, in December, stating its conviction that the existence and use of nuclear weapons posed the greatest threat to the survival of mankind, urged that agreement be reached on the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.

Both the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission also met during the year. The 40-member Conference, the world's only multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, continued negotiations on a chemical weapons ban and considered a comprehensive programme of disarmament, among other things. The General Assembly, in reviewing the work of the Conference, stated that in the current international climate, it was more than ever imperative to give a new impetus to the immediate future negotiations on disarmament at all levels and to achieve genuine progress in this area.

The Disarmament Commission, in addition to recommending approval of the Third Disarmament Decade, dealt with the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament; South Africa's nuclear capability; conventional disarmament; and naval armaments and disarmament. It also dealt with various aspects of the nuclear-arms race and ways to eliminate the dangers of nuclear war.

Other disarmament topics under United Nations scrutiny in 1990 included: various aspects of conventional weapons disarmament, confidence-building, prevention of an arms race in outer space, technological change and global security, and disarmament and development.

Regional centres for disarmament, nuclear weapon-free zones and zones of peace were also considered. Expert disarmament studies reviewed by the General Assembly included one on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification.

Part one: Political and security questions

Chapter III (pp. 92-102)

Peaceful uses of outer space

The United Nations continued in 1990 to promote international co-operation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical and Legal Sub-Committees.

The General Assembly in December endorsed the Committee's decisions and recommendations, as contained in its report to the Assembly, and invited States that had not become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties.

Part one: Political and security questions

Chapter IV (pp. 103-131)

Other political questions

The public information policies and activities of the United Nations remained under review in 1990 by its Committee on Information, the better to promote a freer, wider and better balanced dissemination of information and thereby strengthen international understanding. To that end, the General Assembly called for co-operation and interaction in the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities of developing countries in order to increase their participation in the communication process.

The Assembly requested the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to continue its work aimed at increasing knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources and to analyse its effects on man and his environment; it also requested the United Nations Environment Programme to continue supporting that work.

In view of Antarctica's importance to the global environment and ecosystems, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive study on the establishment of a United Nations-sponsored station in Antarctica to promote international co-operation in scientific research for the benefit of mankind and to act as an early-warning system on climate change and accidents. It appealed again for the exclusion of South Africa from the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties until its system and practices of apartheid were eliminated.

The Secretary-General pursued his mission of good offices concerning Cyprus with a view to achieving an overall agreement between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. In the meantime, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which the Security Council kept in place in the island throughout the year, continued to discharge its peace-keeping and humanitarian tasks.

During the year, two new States were admitted to the United Nations, while four Member States announced their continued membership as two unified States; as a result, United Nations membership remained at 159.

The Security Council held a total of 69 meetings and adopted 37 resolutions. The Assembly resumed and concluded its forty-fourth (1989) session and held the major part of its forty-fifth (1990) session; in addition, it held its seventeenth and eighteenth special sessions, on international co-operation against illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and on international economic co-operation, respectively.

The Assembly requested expanded co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It invited the International Committee of the Red Cross to participate in its work in the capacity of observer.

Part two: Regional questions

Chapter I (pp. 135-162)

Africa

During the year, United Nations efforts to secure the end of apartheid in South Africa continued to dominate the Organization's activities regarding the continent of Africa.

In 1990, South Africa entered into a process of change that the Special Committee against Apartheid stated might lead to the end of that institutionalized system of racial discrimination. Among positive developments were the lifting of the ban on political opposition organizations; the release of some political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), after decades of imprisonment on 11 February 1990; and talks between ANC and the Pretoria regime. The ANC leader visited the United Nations in June, when he addressed a special meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid. A United Nations team which visited South Africa concluded that it had reached the threshold of a new era with the current political process holding encouraging prospects, leading to the dismantling of apartheid. Despite these advances, there was limited political activity and most pillars of apartheid remained.

The General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions aimed at strengthening international pressure on South Africa while promoting the new dialogue.

Despite some problems early in 1990, the 1988 agreements between Angola, Cuba and South Africa were being implemented and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola was on schedule. The United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) had operated successfully, the Secretary-General said, demonstrating what could be achieved by a UN peace-keeping operation when it received full co-operation from the parties concerned.

Namibia, the former territory of South-West Africa under South African control for decades and since 1976 under the legal administration of the United Nations, became an independent nation on 21 March 1990 (see PART FOUR, Chapter III). During the year, the United Nations continued its efforts to implement the 1988 settlement plan for Western Sahara (see PART FOUR, Chapter I).

In other areas, the Secretary-General remained informed about developments regarding the conflict in Liberia and of the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States to resolve it. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Chad and the Sudan exchanged charges of military action. Libya in December requested a Security Council meeting regarding allegations that the United States had transported Libyan detainees from Chad to an unknown destination. The General Assembly again reaffirmed the sovereignty of the Comoros over the Indian Ocean island of Mayotte. Increasing co-operation between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations resulted in a meeting of the two secretariats to draw up a specific recommendation for future co-operation in priority fields.

Part two: Regional questions

Chapter II (pp. 163-188)

Americas

During 1990, the United Nations continued to play a central role in assisting the Central American countries to achieve peace. UN peacekeeping operations in the region required adjusted mandates to cope with their expanding roles. The United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), set up originally to promote compliance with agreements reached by the five Central American Presidents, was instrumental in the voluntary demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance. On five occasions during the year, the Security Council enlarged and extended ONUCA's mandate: on 27 March, 20 April, 4 May, 8 June and 5 November. The United Nations Observer Mission for the Verification of the Electoral Process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) monitored preparations for and the holding of free and fair elections in February, the first such operation authorized and conducted by the Organization internally in a Member State. ONUVEN's success led to a central role for the Organization in the peaceful transfer of power in a region where, in the past, such transfers had been the exception rather than the rule.

In El Salvador, the Government and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) agreed in April to launch a negotiating process, under the Secretary-General's auspices, for the purpose of speedily ending, through political means, an armed conflict that had torn that nation apart for more than a decade, as well as to promote democratization of the country, guarantee unrestricted respect for human rights and reunify Salvadorian society. In June, the parties concluded an agreement on human rights, providing for an unprecedented scheme for long-term, nation-wide UN human rights monitoring.

At the end of March, a process was launched with the central purpose of seeking a political solution to the internal armed conflict in Guatemala. The Secretary-General appointed an observer to attend the talks among representatives of the Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca.

The General Assembly expressed strongest support for the peace agreements concluded by the five Central American Governments and requested the Secretary-General to continue to afford them his fullest support in their efforts to consolidate peace.

Haiti's first free and democratic elections in December were monitored by the United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of Elections in Haiti (ONUVEH), authorized by the General Assembly by consensus in October.

The Security Council met in January to consider Nicaragua's complaint about United States occupation of its Embassy in Panama and in February convened at Cuba's request regarding an alleged attack by the United States Coast Guard on a vessel manned by Cuban nationals. The Council took no action on either matter.

Part two: Regional questions

Chapter III (pp. 189-233)

Asia and the Pacific

Never before in the 45-year history of the United Nations had the Security Council reacted with such unanimity to an invasion, occupation and purported annexation, said the Secretary-General in commenting on Council action following Iraq's early morning invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. By the end of the year, the Council had adopted 10 resolutions on the crisis, including those unanimously condemning the invasion and demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces. Comprehensive, mandatory sanctions were imposed against Iraq, the annexation of Kuwait was declared null and void, and a naval blockade to enforce the sanctions was endorsed. In November, the Council authorized the use of "all necessary means" to uphold and implement all relevant Security Council resolutions and to restore international peace and security in the area if Iraq had not fully implemented those resolutions on or before 15 January 1991.

With tensions increasing in 1990 in one area of Asia, significant progress was being made towards defusion and even final settlements in other parts. During the year, the Cambodian parties accepted a framework for a settlement drawn up by the five permanent members of the Security Council, which involved a major United Nations role through the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to oversee United Nations-supervised elections and the installation of a temporary UN administration. The General Assembly and the Security Council endorsed the plan. On 3 February, Democratic Kampuchea reverted to the name Cambodia.

Another UN operation-the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) – ended in March, and was immediately succeeded by the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Secretary-General's efforts were particularly focused on promoting an international consensus to encourage an Afghan political process, which in turn would enable the Afghan people to exercise, unhindered, their right to self-determination.

Relations between Iran and Iraq in 1990 improved to the extent that it was possible to implement important aspects of the Security Council's 1987 cease-fire resolution. Withdrawal to internationally recognized boundaries took place in August and the repatriation of prisoners of war began.

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. As both countries, for the first time in 45 years, began a dialogue, the question of their membership in the United Nations was raised.

On 12 December 1990, the General Assembly, by decision 45/425, included the item entitled "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia" in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth (1991) session.

Part two: Regional questions

Chapter IV (pp. 234-295)

Middle East

During 1990, the United Nations continued its efforts to support the search for a peaceful settlement to the situation in the Middle East, which remained a serious threat to international peace and security. In December, the General Assembly reaffirmed the imperative necessity of establishing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, based on full respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. It also reaffirmed its call for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The Security Council in 1990 met on numerous occasions to discuss developments in the Middle East, particularly in the occupied territories. In October, after a violent incident at the Haram al-Sharif (Al-Aqsa) Mosque, resulting in more than 20 Palestinian deaths and the injury of more than 150 persons, the Council welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to send a mission to the region to look into the circumstances surrounding those events. Israel's subsequent refusal to accept the mission was deplored by the Council.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian Rights) continued to keep under review the question of Palestine-reaffirmed by the General Assembly as the core of the Middle East problem-and to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations. In its 1990 report, the Committee concluded that, in the 15 years since its establishment, an international consensus had gradually been achieved on the essential principles for a solution of the question and that developments since the beginning of the intifadah, the Palestinian uprising, had led to an even wider consensus.

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (Committee on Israeli Practices) in 1990 reported a further escalation of tension in the occupied territories, which, in its opinion, had reached a very dangerous level.

Economic and social developments in the occupied territories were monitored by the Economic and Social Council, which in 1990 adopted resolutions on the situation of Palestinian women, Israeli economic practices in the occupied territories, and assistance to the Palestinian people.

Various UN organizations and agencies continued to provide assistance to Palestinians in 1990, notably the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which provided education, health and relief services to 2.4 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

During 1990, the Council extended the mandates of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

On 17 September, by decision 44/470, the General Assembly included in the draft agenda of its forty-fifth session the item "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security". By decision 45/430 of 14 December, the Assembly deferred the item to a later date during the forty-fifth session, and included it in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session. The subject had been on its agenda since 1981, following the bombing by Israel of a nuclear facility near Baghdad [YUN 1981, p. 275].

Part two: Regional questions

Chapter V (pp. 296-331)

Regional economic and social activities

During 1990, the five United Nations regional commissions continued efforts to promote economic and social development in their respective regions, though the work of the commission concerned with Western Asia was severely disrupted by the repatriation of staff from their Baghdad headquarters in August when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

During the first half of the year, four of the commissions held their regular sessions. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) decided to make far-reaching changes in both its work programme priorities and its organizational structure, based on consideration of proposals made by a Special Working Group. The Group based its recommendations on the new situation in Europe brought about by changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held their sessions in May and June. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) did not meet in 1990.

Among resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council concerning issues of interest to the regional commissions were those related to admission of Italy as a member of ECLAC; a special plan of economic co-operation for Central America (see PART THREE, Chapter III); and transforming and strengthening ECA's Multinational Programming and Operational Centres. The General Assembly adopted a resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter I (pp. 335-377)

Development policy and international economic co-operation

In 1990, against the background of a decelerating world economy and the transformation and integration of the economies of Eastern Europe into the world trading and financial systems, the United Nations General Assembly held its eighteenth special session to discuss global economic issues. On 1 May, the Assembly adopted the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of Developing Countries, stating that the most important challenge for the 1990s was the revitalization of economic growth and social development in the developing countries, which called for sustained growth of the world economy and favourable external conditions.

During the year global per capita output declined for the first time since 1982 and overall global output grew by only 1 per cent. Although the situation in the Persian Gulf was a serious shock to the world economy, the principal causes of the slow-down were the hesitant recession in the major industrialized countries, the transition problems in Eastern Europe and the stabilization efforts in Latin America. Nevertheless, the rise in oil prices and other consequences of the Gulf crisis reduced the growth of world output in 1990 by some 0.3 per cent.

In addition to the special session, the United Nations took other action to promote the economic and social development of the developing countries, including the Assembly's proclamation in December of the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (1991-2000), to start on 1 January 1991, and its adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Decade. The principal aim of the Strategy was to ensure that the decade of the 1990s was one of accelerated development in the developing countries and that policies and measures were proposed to support and realize that goal.

The Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which was held in Paris in September, adopted the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action. The Programme of Action-endorsed by the Assembly in December-outlined proposals for action for the least developed countries, their development partners, financial institutions and development funds to help a fundamental growth-oriented transformation of their economies.

Action was also taken to address the special problems of the island developing countries with the adoption, at the June Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, of "Challenges and opportunities: A strategic framework". That document noted that the island developing countries suffered because of their smallness, remoteness, lack of natural resources and other handicaps and proposed strategies to address those vulnerabilities.

Other development and economic issues addressed by the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council during 1990 included entrepreneurship, industrial development co-operation and the eradication of poverty.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter II (pp. 378-408)

Operational activities for development

In 1990, organizations of the United Nations system continued their work to advance the development of the world's nations, providing a total of \$8.5 billion in grants (\$4.7 billion) and concessional loans (\$3.8 billion). These figures represented a 16 per cent increase against a net decline in 1989.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-the central funding body of the United Nations for technical assistance-celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its establishment on United Nations Day-24 October. During its anniversary year, the Programme clarified its mandate and priorities for the new decade and adopted a new funding strategy to increase voluntary contributions and improve programme quality. It also launched the first Human Development Report. UNDP spent a total of \$1 billion on field programme activities in 1990 and approved 1,256 new projects with a value of \$850 million. Regionally, the largest proportion of field programme expenditures went to Africa (36 per cent), followed by Asia and the Pacific (34 per cent).

At the Pledging Conference for Development Activities in November, some \$1.6 billion was pledged for 1991 to UN funds and programmes concerned with development and related assistance. Of the total, some \$906 million was for UNDP.

During the year, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly reviewed progress in implementing the Assembly's 1989 comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development, including mobilization of financial resources. The UNDP Governing Council took a number of decisions in preparation for the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996), including the resources to be made available, their allocation, and other related issues.

The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had 997 projects under execution in 1990 with a total delivery of \$181.6 million. The natural resources and energy sector, which included work in minerals, energy, water and infrastructure, remained the largest programme, with \$70.7 million in expenditures.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund continued to provide small-scale capital assistance to the least developed countries to stimulate income-generating activities and help people to meet basic needs. In 1990, commitments to new projects, along with grant increases to those under way, totalled \$78.1 million.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter III (pp. 409-452)

Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief

The United Nations continued in 1990 to provide special assistance to countries facing severe economic hardship, as well as those seriously affected by natural and man-made disasters. In December, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to determine means of facilitating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations. It expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continuing support for efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order and called on Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further develop international co-operation in the humanitarian field.

The critical economic situation in Africa remained a major concern during 1990. The Assembly established an ad hoc committee of the whole to prepare the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. It invited the international community to strengthen its support of Africa's efforts to diversify its commodity sector and to bring about sustained and sustainable growth and development, taking into account the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. The Assembly appealed for international assistance for Angola, Benin, the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Madagascar and of the front-line States and other neighbouring States that had suffered as a result of the apartheid policies of South Africa. Assistance for Ecuador, Lebanon, Vanuatu and Yemen was also requested.

The General Assembly in 1990 decided to extend the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America for an additional three years beginning in 1991.

The United Nations system, and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator in particular, continued to provide assistance to countries stricken by natural disasters. The Assembly launched the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The Council called for relief operations and rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance after a cyclone swept through Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna in the South Pacific. The Assembly called for similar assistance to Iran following an earthquake that struck that country in June.

The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to consult with Haiti for the launching of a special programme of emergency assistance to that country. As a consequence of the conflict in Liberia, the Assembly appealed to the international community to provide Liberia with all necessary assistance for its economic and social rehabilitation.

The Assembly considered for the first time the consequences of the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukrainian SSR and invited the Secretary-General to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident and to formulate a programme for coordinating the activities of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IV (pp. 453-487)

International trade, finance and transport

Despite the slow-down in global output in 1990, world trade remained buoyant with the volume of world exports increasing by 5.5 per cent-not much less than the 7 per cent of 1989. However, there were clouds on the international trade horizon, including growing concerns about the proliferation of bilateral trade arrangements, as well as about the formation of trading blocs and their eventual impact on the global trading system. There was also apprehension about protectionism and the tendency for some countries to substitute “managed trade” for free trade, and tensions were mounting with regard to the difficulties in reaching agreement on key agenda items in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Trade and Development Board (TDB) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held three sessions in 1990, including a special session on compensatory financing of export earnings shortfalls. In December, the General Assembly, having considered the TDB report covering those sessions, urged all countries to fulfil their responsibilities in strengthening the rules and disciplines of the multilateral trading system for the benefit of all and affirmed the need for the outcome of the Uruguay Round to contribute positively to building up and strengthening the infrastructure and technological capacities of the developing countries.

The Assembly decided to convene the eighth session of UNCTAD (UNCTAD VIII) at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 21 September to 8 October 1991. UNCTAD VIII was invited by the Assembly to analyse and assess the outcome of the Uruguay Round, in particular in areas of interest or concern to developing countries. With regard to commodities, the Assembly emphasized the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and transformation in commodity-dependent developing countries and urged UNCTAD VIII to address all aspects of commodity problems in a comprehensive manner.

On the question of the international debt crisis, the Assembly, having considered reports by the Secretary-General and by his Personal Representative on Debt, invited the multilateral financial institutions to continue to provide support for debt and debt-service reduction packages and urged that serious attention be given to continuing to work towards a growth-oriented solution for developing countries with serious debt-servicing problems, including those whose debt was mainly to official creditors or to multilateral financial institutions.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter L (pp. 488-499)

Transnational corporations

In 1990, the activities of transnational corporations (TNCS), in view of their impact on international development and global investment flows and trade, continued to attract the attention of the international community. The United Nations continued to support efforts to formulate a code of conduct on TNCS, but no consensus was reached on its final form. In December, the General Assembly requested its President, with the support of the Secretary-General, to arrange for intensive consultations to achieve an early agreement on the code.

During its sixteenth session (New York, 2-11 April), the Commission on Transnational Corporations reviewed developments related to TNCs, recognizing the potential of positive contributions they could make to the world economy and its further integration.

The Commission also considered the report on the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, which dealt with developments in accounting from a global perspective, discussing accounting implications arising from the continued instability in financial markets, European economic integration and glasnost, as well as accounting for environmental protection measures.

The report and recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons established to conduct the second public hearings on TNC activities in South Africa and Namibia, which contained an assessment of their role in the South African economy, as well as of the possible strengthening of sanctions to accelerate political change in that country, was also before the Commission. The Economic and Social Council condemned TNCS that continued to collaborate with the racist minority regime in South Africa and called for a prohibition of all collaboration by TNCs with that regime.

The Centre on TNCS, the secretariat for the Commission, provided a wide range of information and advisory services mainly to developing countries, as well as to the newly emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. The Economic and Social Council expressed its support of Centre activities, requesting it to continue developing programmes of support for co-operative activities of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VI (pp. 500-513)

Natural resources, energy and cartography

Issues related to the use and conservation of natural resources and energy were considered by several UN bodies during 1990. The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which met in March/April, had among its substantive themes the contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to integrated rural development and direct solar-to-electrical energy conversion. In December, the General Assembly urged that greater attention be given to the development and efficient use of new and renewable sources of energy for the rural sector, bearing in mind the depletion of the fuelwood supply taking place in many regions of the world.

In other energy-related action, the Assembly, having considered the Secretary-General's report on energy exploration and development trends in developing countries, stressed the need for comprehensive, national, bilateral and multilateral measures, particularly with regard to financing, investment, technology and training of national technical personnel, to accelerate the exploration and development of energy resources in developing countries, including new and renewable sources of energy.

With regard to natural resources, a number of projects, exploration for which had been supported by the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources [UNRFNRE), reached the production stage. Although the Fund's work was strongly supported by the developing countries, it continued to suffer from inadequate contributions. In order to reduce staff and other running costs, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme decided that the supervisory functions of UNRFNRE and those of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should be handled by a joint unit. With regard to increasing the numbers of people who had access to safe drinking water and suitable sanitation services, a report was submitted to the Assembly on the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held in New Delhi in September. The Assembly, which also had before it the Secretary-General's final assessment of progress made during the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), welcomed the New Delhi Statement adopted at the Global Consultation, endorsed its guiding principles and recommendations, and urged Governments to implement them.

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) informed the Assembly that IAEA members, both individually and collectively, were pursuing efforts to strengthen the safety of nuclear activities, including waste disposal. The Assembly affirmed its confidence in IAEA'S role in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and urged all States to strive for effective and harmonious international co-operation in carrying out the Agency's work.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VII (pp. 514-518)

Science and technology

In 1990, the United Nations continued, within the framework of the 1979 Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, to direct its efforts towards strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries by mobilizing financial resources, upgrading institutional arrangements, improving the balance of international flow of technology, and restructuring the existing pattern of international scientific and technological relations.

The Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development-a subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development-met to discuss sustainable development, endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, and environmentally sound technology assessment. The Intergovernmental Committee did not meet in 1990.

The United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSTD) had nearly 50 ongoing projects in such areas as energy, technological innovation, science and technology policy and entrepreneurial development. In June, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme approved a proposal to entrust the management of UNFSTD and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration to a single office, while maintaining their identity and respective operating procedures.

Work continued on drafting an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued his consultations with regional groups and interested Governments and reported to the General Assembly on progress made in the negotiations on the code. The Assembly invited the UNCTAD Secretary-General and the President of the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology to continue consultations with regional groups and Governments, in conjunction with the appropriate intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD.

In July, the Economic and Social Council considered the importance of the development of informatics as a key area of scientific and technological progress and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on all aspects of international co-operation in the field of informatics and its impact on the growth and development of the developing countries.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VIII (pp. 519-537)

Environment

In 1990, the United Nations continued to address problems affecting the earth's environment, which were of increasing concern to the international community. The General Assembly stressed the fundamental interrelationship between environment and development, and reiterated the need to integrate and maintain a balance between those two elements in activities that affected them.

The year was marked by preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July 1992. The Preparatory Committee for UNCED held an organizational session and its first substantive session. It created a voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in conference activities. The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme held its second special session (1-3 August), which adopted decisions on a wide range of issues related to the environment and conference preparations.

The Second World Climate Conference was held in Geneva from 29 October to 7 November. The Conference's Ministerial Declaration stated that climate change was a global problem of unique character for which a global response must be decided upon and implemented without further delay. During the year, efforts continued toward negotiations on a framework convention on climate change. In 1990, agreement was reached on establishing the Global Environment Facility to deal with greenhouse gas issues and other environmental protection matters. High priority was also urged for formulation of a legal instrument on the conservation and rational use of biological diversity.

In June, the Second Meeting of the Parties to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer decided that a multilateral fund be established to enable developing countries to meet the Protocol's requirements and to facilitate the transfer of the necessary technology from developed to developing countries. Meanwhile, UN bodies and agencies continued to deal with a broad range of environmental issues, including those affecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems, environment and human rights, protection against harmful products and wastes, marine ecosystems and desertification and drought.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IX (pp. 538-548)

Population and human settlements

In 1990, the United Nations continued its concerted efforts in the area of population and human settlements. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) activities focused on maternal and child health care and family planning, communication and education programmes, basic data collection, population dynamics programmes and the formulation and evaluation of population policies. During the year, UNFPA assisted nearly 3,800 country, regional and intercountry projects; about 500 new projects were approved and some 250 projects completed. UNFPA efforts concentrated especially on the needs of 56 priority countries, the majority of which were in Africa. The 1990 United Nations Population Award was conferred on Alfred Sauvy and the Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council.

Activities in support of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted by the General Assembly in 1988, continued in 1990. As a private-sector contribution to the Global Strategy, the Third International Shelter Conference was convened in Washington, D.C., in April. In addition, the Strategy provided the focus for nine subregional seminars on national shelter strategies held during the year. Meanwhile, the 1990-1991 work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), which was based on eight subprogrammes, continued.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter X (pp. 549-669)

Human rights

In 1990, the United Nations continued to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide, and dealt with matters related to racial and other forms of discrimination—including religious intolerance, HIV/ AIDS-related intolerance and measures against nazism—self-determination of peoples, electoral processes, administration of justice, prisoners, torture, executions, hostage-taking, genocide and mass exoduses. Other important areas of concern were freedom of speech, extreme poverty, problems of minorities, including indigenous peoples, and the rights of children, youth and women.

The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child was opened for signature in New York on 26 January 1990 and entered into force on 2 September, following receipt of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession. In December, the General Assembly adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the 93-article International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

In other action, the Assembly proclaimed 1993 as the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

Implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights—one concerning civil and political rights, the other, economic, social and cultural rights—remained a major concern of the United Nations in 1990.

A number of working groups moved forward on specific human rights issues. Among them was the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which, having considered as its main theme the eradication of the exploitation of child labour and debt bondage, drew up a draft programme of action to eliminate the problem. The Working Group on the Draft Body of Principles and Guarantees for the Protection of Mentally-ill Persons and for the Improvement of Mental Health Care held its first session to examine the draft body of principles and guarantees. Work also continued on draft declarations on the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and of indigenous peoples, as well as on a draft declaration on the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Action on a wide spectrum of human rights issues was taken by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session (Geneva, 29 January-9 March), with the adoption of 81 resolutions and 16 decisions; the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, at its forty-second session (Geneva, 6-31 August), adopted 34 resolutions and 26 decisions.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XI (pp. 670-685)

Health, food and nutrition

The United Nations in 1990 continued to respond to the international dimensions of issues related to health, food and nutrition, especially those concerning disabled persons, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), poverty and famine.

Activities continued in support of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992). In May, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Commission for Social Development to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults. In October, the Secretary-General submitted recommendations on alternative ways to mark the end of the Decade, including the convening of a ministerial conference.

The World Health Organization estimated that the number of AIDS cases world-wide had risen to more than 600,000 and, by the year 2000, the number of adult cases was expected to reach 5 to 6 million. The United Nations Development Programme decided to initiate a study on the social and economic impact of the AIDS pandemic. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in view of the implications of AIDS for development, to mobilize the cumulative experience of the UN system in the planning of multisectoral projects and in raising funds for countries requesting assistance.

The World Food Council (WFC) in 1990 expressed concern about the deterioration of the food situation in large parts of Africa and in other developing regions. It also noted the negative trend in environmental degradation, which, if left unchecked, could jeopardize the food security of future generations. It emphasized the importance of integrating food-security and poverty-alleviation objectives into economic adjustment programmes. The Assembly recognized the need for improved governance arrangements for WFC, and welcomed the decision of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to establish a sub-committee on the governance and relationship between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and WFC.

Inter-agency preparations continued, under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, for the International Conference on Nutrition, to be held in 1992.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XII (pp. 686-771)

Social and cultural development, crime prevention and human resources

The United Nations continued in 1990 to disseminate data on the world social situation, particularly in regard to the developing countries, in order to promote policy measures based on accurate knowledge of the specific interrelationships among economic growth, human development and social progress in the achievement of overall development. It moreover continued to examine the question of social justice and ways in which it could be achieved for all.

A major event of the year was the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana, Cuba, in August/September. It adopted 28 substantive resolutions and recommended to the General Assembly 13 draft instruments and resolutions that emerged from its deliberations on international co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice; criminal justice policies in relation to problems of imprisonment, other penal sanctions and alternative measures; effective national and international action against organized crime and terrorist criminal activities; and policy approaches to delinquency prevention, juvenile justice and protection of the young.

The Assembly welcomed the Congress resolutions and instruments and invited Governments to be guided by them when formulating legislation and policy directives. In adopting the Congress recommendations on international co-operation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development, the Assembly called for the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as the only professional and specialized entity within the UN system with overall responsibility for its crime prevention and criminal justice programme, to be strengthened in terms of both human and financial resources. On the basis of a report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the Assembly established an intergovernmental working group to elaborate proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme and to suggest how it could be implemented.

In taking note of the Secretary-General's report on developing human resources for development and of the human-centred approach to the development process set out in the Human Development Report 1990, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Assembly called on the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in human resources development, in accordance with their national priorities and plans, through, among other means, operational activities of the UN system. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to explore new modalities for greater interfacing among autonomous UN research bodies in order to enhance co-operation among them. It also appealed for financial contributions to the Endowment Fund of the United Nations University and to the University for Peace to ensure their smooth operation.

In observance of 1990 as International Literacy Year, the World Conference on Education for All was held in Jomtien, Thailand, in March. Sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank, the Conference adopted the World Declaration on Education for All and a Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIII (pp. 772-796)

Women

In 1990, the United Nations undertook the first five-year review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which were adopted in 1985 by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985). The Commission on the Status of Women, which carried out the review and appraisal at an extended thirty-fourth session (Vienna, 26 February–9 March), considered the first biennial report of the Secretary-General on progress made by the UN system in implementing the Strategies and made recommendations for action in the priority areas of equality, development and peace.

The Economic and Social Council in May adopted the recommendations and conclusions arising from the review and appraisal and urged Governments and international and nongovernmental organizations to implement them, as did the General Assembly in December.

On the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Council adopted three resolutions related to the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and others dealing with various aspects of the advancement of women, women in development and the rights of women. Also on the basis of the Commission's report, the Council recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995 and that the Commission include preparations for the conference in its 1991-1995 work programme. That recommendation was endorsed by the Assembly in December.

Among other action by the Assembly concerning the situation of women were resolutions encouraging the United Nations and Member States to support efforts to increase women's literacy; urging Governments to participate actively in an interregional consultation on women in public life, to be held in 1991; and commending the efforts of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, which pioneered new ways to promote women's participation in national planning and innovative grass-roots activities.

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which marked its tenth anniversary in 1990, strengthened its work in statistics and indicators on women, including women's work in the informal sector. In May, the Council recommended that, given the growing role of research, training and information on women and development, the Institute continue to work on new methodological approaches in those fields.

In 1990, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) considered seven initial and five periodic reports of States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at its January/February session. CEDAW also adopted recommendations on female circumcision and on avoidance of discrimination against women in the prevention and control of AIDS. By the end of the year, there were 103 States parties to the Convention.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIV (pp. 797-821)

Children, youth and aging persons

The year 1990 was one of major achievement for the world's children and the work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), despite the enormous challenges still to be addressed in that area by the international community.

On 2 September, the Convention on the Rights of the Child entered into force, setting universal legal standards to protect children against neglect, abuse and exploitation, as well as guarantee their basic human rights. In December, the General Assembly welcomed the entry into force of the Convention as a major step in international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The United Nations World Summit for Children (New York, 29-30 September), attended by leaders from 159 countries representing 99 per cent of the world's population, adopted the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration in the 1990s. Those historic proclamations, containing specific goals, many with measurable targets and deadlines for achievement, were accompanied by a detailed list of follow-up measures to be implemented at national and international levels. The General Assembly, in December, welcomed the adoption of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action and urged all States and other members of the international community to work for the achievement of the goals and objectives endorsed by the World Summit as an integral part of their national plans and international co-operation.

The year was also a milestone in the area of immunization, with the effective achievement of the goal of universal child immunization. Immunization coverage increased more than fourfold from less than 20 per cent in 1981 to the 1990 goal of 80 per cent. In April, the UNICEF Executive Board approved the goals and strategies for children and development as guiding principles for UNICEF's work in the 1990s and endorsed specific nutritional goals for the year 2000.

In December, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond. The Assembly also endorsed the action programme on aging for 1992 and beyond, which, on the tenth anniversary of the 1982 adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging, would serve as a catalyst for its further implementation.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XV (pp. 822-846)

Refugees and displaced persons

The year 1990 marked an unprecedented deterioration in the global refugee situation—with a staggering 15 million worldwide—due in large part to developments in the Horn of Africa and western Africa. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued its humanitarian activities on behalf of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the world, despite the financial constraints under which it was operating. In addition to responding to increased requests for emergency assistance to new refugees, UNHCR, in co-operation with concerned Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, continued to seek durable solutions to refugee problems through programmes of voluntary repatriation, local integration in the country of asylum or resettlement in another country.

There were, however, many positive developments during the year. The number of new arrivals of Vietnamese “boat people” declined dramatically, and Central America’s long-standing refugee problem appeared to be diminishing, thanks to the concerted efforts of countries in the region.

Voluntary repatriations took place in a number of countries, notably in Central America, where, following a favourable political climate created by elections, some 55,000 Nicaraguans returned to their country. The Comprehensive Plan of Action, following the 1989 International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, brought hope for a solution to the 16-year-old refugee situation in that area of the world. In Africa, encouraging political developments brightened prospects with regard to Angola, South Africa and Western Sahara.

In October 1990, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme considered refugee protection, refugee women and children, UNHCR policy on refugee women, Indo-Chinese refugees, repatriation of refugees to Cambodia, Central American refugees and the situation of refugees in Africa.

The Nansen medal—since 1954 bestowed in honour of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—was not awarded in 1990.

Thorvald Stoltenberg assumed his functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 1 January 1990. He resigned from that position with effect from 2 November. On 21 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, elected Sadako Ogata (Japan) as his successor, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1991 (decision 45/319).

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XVI (pp. 847-879)

International drug control

In 1990, the United Nations continued to address the problem of the rising trend in drug abuse and the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances. During the year, the Organization took major steps to enhance its drug control activities.

In February, the General Assembly held its seventeenth special session, which was devoted to international co-operation relating to various drug issues. It adopted a Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The General Assembly in 1990 stated its conviction that an intensification of international co-operation and concerted action among States was the fundamental basis for confronting the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and that the extraordinary high levels of illicit consumption, cultivation and production of narcotic drugs and of illicit drug trafficking necessitated a more comprehensive approach to international co-operation in drug abuse control and counteroffensives at the national, regional and international levels. The Assembly also proclaimed the period from 1991 to the year 2000 as the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse.

In May, the Secretary-General presented the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, an agenda aiming at the full implementation of all existing drug abuse control mandates of every entity of the United Nations system, identifying concrete activities that each agency should undertake. To enhance UN effectiveness in combating the scourge of illegal drugs, the General Assembly called for the creation of a United Nations International Drug Control Programme to be based in Vienna, beginning on 1 January 1991.

The International Narcotics Control Board continued to oversee the implementation of three major UN drug control conventions. In its annual report, it analysed drug abuse trends and control efforts so that Governments continued to be aware of existing and potentially dangerous situations. On 11 November, the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances entered into force. The General Assembly welcomed the entry into force of the Convention and urged States that had not done so to proceed as soon as possible to ratify or accede to the Convention.

The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs-the Organization's main policy-making body on drug control matters-held its eleventh special session and adopted a number of resolutions on various drug control issues.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XVII (pp. 880-886)

Statistics

In 1990, the United Nations continued its efforts to strengthen international co-operation in the field of statistics.

Reports prepared for the Statistical Commission of the United Nations continued to focus on the development of economic statistics, including the main features of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) and the further elaboration of social and demographic statistics. In June, the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination held its twenty-fourth session. It considered, among other things, a revision of SNA; the National Household Survey Capability Programme; the Living Standards Measurement Study and the Social Dimensions of Adjustment Project; and statistical implications of the single market of the European Economic Community and the changes in Eastern Europe.

Part three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XVIII (pp. 887-902)

Institutional arrangements

The Economic and Social Council continued during 1990 to review its structure and functioning. In July, the Council invited its President to hold informal consultations on the review of measures agreed upon for the revitalization of the Council. It also agreed to hold a special high-level meeting on major policy themes in 1991. The General Assembly, in December, decided to reconvene in a resumed session in April 1991 for in-depth consideration and negotiation of proposals for the restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. It also adopted new proposals for the revitalization of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee.

The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), at its two regular sessions in 1990, gave priority consideration to development and international economic co-operation; the impact of recent developments in East-West relations; African economic recovery and development; and operational activities for development. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) continued efforts to harmonize system-wide activities and programmes.

Part four: Trusteeship and decolonization

Chapter I (pp. 905-943)

Questions related to decolonization

The year 1990 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It was also the first year of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1988. Commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration, the Assembly recognized the significant and commendable role played by the United Nations since its inception in the field of decolonization and noted that, during that period, more than 100 States had achieved sovereignty. The Assembly expressed its determination to take effective measures leading to complete and unconditional elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations without further delay.

The main body dealing with decolonization was the Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee on decolonization). In 1990, the Committee continued to examine the decolonization issue in general and made recommendations on the situations in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (see PART FOUR, Chapter II), Namibia (see PART FOUR, Chapter III) and other Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), New Caledonia and Western Sahara, as well as a number of small island Territories.

Part four: Trusteeship and decolonization

Chapter II (pp. 944-948)

International Trusteeship System

During 1990, the Trusteeship Council, composed of China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, on behalf of the Security Council continued to supervise the one Trust Territory remaining under the International Trusteeship System-the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Territory, designated as a strategic area, was administered by the United States in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement approved by the Security Council in 1947 [YUN 194647, p. 3981.

In December 1990, the Security Council terminated the Trusteeship Agreement with respect to three of the four entities of the Trust Territory-the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. The fourth entity, Palau, continued to be supervised by the Trusteeship Council and administered by the United States.

The Trusteeship Council held its twentieth special session on 8 January, to consider the dispatch of a visiting mission to observe a February plebiscite in Palau on the Compact of Free Association. Its fifty-seventh regular session was held between 21 May and 28 November, at which it considered the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1989, heard 10 petitioners, and examined 63 written petitions and four communications.

Part four: Trusteeship and decolonization

Chapter III (pp. 949-959)

Namibia

The year 1990 was a historic one for United Nations efforts in the area of decolonization as Namibia, the last remaining colony in Africa, attained its independence on 21 March. That event occurred nearly a quarter century after the General Assembly had acted to change the Territory's status to bring it under UN administration, and a dozen years after the Security Council laid out in resolution 435(1978) a detailed settlement plan for its independence. In his 1990 report on the work of the Organization the Secretary-General said that the Namibian experience was a striking demonstration of the results that could be achieved by multilateral effort, by the active engagement of the principal organs of the United Nations and by members of the Security Council and other States undertaking a crucial role in negotiations.

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter I (pp. 963-966)

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 1990 continued to shape international law by considering and adjudicating cases brought before it by States. During the year, it dealt with seven contentious cases, and an eighth was referred to it during the year. The Court delivered a Judgment and made six Orders.

The General Assembly and the Security Council held elections in November to fill vacancies caused by the expiration of the term of office of five judges.

Poland and Spain deposited with the Secretary-General declarations recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court as compulsory, as contemplated in Article 36, paragraph 2, of the ICJ Statute.

At the beginning of the year, the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, on behalf of the Secretary-General, wrote to the ICJ President inviting the Court, in connection with the United Nations Decade of International Law, declared by the General Assembly in 1989, to submit views on the programme for the Decade and on appropriate action to be taken during it, including the possibility of holding a third international peace conference or other suitable international conference at the end of the Decade.

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter II (pp. 967-983)

Legal aspects of international political relations

In 1990, the United Nations continued to address legal aspects of international relations and the promotion of friendly relations between States.

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization proceeded with the development of international law in the areas of maintenance of international peace and security, and considered working papers pertaining to the enhancement of fact-finding by the United Nations. It also dealt with the preparation of a handbook on peaceful settlement of disputes between States and with conciliation rules of the United Nations. In the area of rationalization of existing UN procedures, the Special Committee adopted a draft document on the subject and submitted it to the General Assembly for consideration.

In November, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the work of the International Law Commission (ILC) on the question of an international criminal jurisdiction. It invited ILC to continue elaboration of the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind, including the possible establishment of an international criminal court or other international criminal trial mechanism. ILC reviewed issues regarding State liability, responsibility and immunities; draft articles concerning the relations between States and international organizations; and codification of international law relating to non-navigational uses of international watercourses.

During the year, the United Nations also continued to promote and develop international law governing States and diplomatic relations, as well as international treaties and agreements. The Secretary-General received reports from States concerning serious violations of the security of diplomats and consular missions and representatives to States and international organizations, as well as views on measures to enhance their protection and safety. The Assembly condemned all acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and urged States to ensure their safety and prevent such acts. The General Assembly also dealt with such topics as improvement of consular relations, and the status of diplomatic bags and couriers, conciliation rules of the United Nations and good-neighbourliness between States. In addition, the Secretariat continued its depositary function for agreements, conventions and treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country again reported in 1990 on matters relating to the security of all missions and the safety of their personnel. The General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by the host country and urged it, in the light of travel regulations issued by it, to bear in mind its obligation to facilitate the functioning of the United Nations and the missions accredited to it. In addition, the Secretary-General reported on the observer status of national liberation movements and co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter III (pp. 984-994)

Law of the sea

In 1990, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea continued to set legal standards for the use of the world's seas and oceans, assuring a remarkable degree of conformity in the maritime practices of States even before its entry into force. During the year, the number of parties to the Convention increased to 45. The Secretary-General reported in November on developments relating to the Convention and its implementation, and took the initiative to convene informal consultations to promote dialogue aimed at achieving universal participation in the Convention.

The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, at its eighth session, continued to examine issues related to the implementation of the obligations of the registered pioneer investors and their certifying States and the preparation of draft agreements, rules, regulations and procedures for the International Sea-Bed Authority. It received, in August, an application from China for registration as a pioneer investor, which would bring the number of pioneer investors to six.

The Assembly, the Council and the Secretariat were to be the principal organs of the Authority. The Assembly, consisting of all the members, would be the supreme organ of the Authority. The Council was to function as the Executive organ, with the power to establish specific policies in conformity with the Convention and the Assembly. The Secretariat would be composed of a Secretary-General and staff.

In December, the General Assembly called on all States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention and to observe the provisions of the Convention when enacting national legislation. It urged Member States, in particular those with advanced marine capabilities, to review relevant policies and programmes in the context of the integration of the marine sector in national development strategies, and to explore prospects for intensifying co-operation with developing States.

The Assembly requested international and governmental organizations and multilateral funding agencies to intensify assistance to developing countries in their efforts to realize the benefits of the legal regime established by the Convention.

Part five: Legal questions

Chapter IV (pp. 995-1001)

Other legal questions

In 1990, the United Nations continued to consider various aspects of international law and of international economic law.

In November, the General Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the first term (1990-1992) of the United Nations Decade of International Law, which the Assembly had declared in 1989. It also appealed to States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make financial contributions for the implementation of the programme.

The twenty-sixth session of the International Law Seminar was held at Geneva from 5 to 22 June, attended by 20 participants, mostly from developing countries. Noting that not all applicants who had asked for financial assistance could be awarded fellowships, the International Law Commission appealed to States that could do so to make voluntary contributions needed to enable the convening of the Seminar in 1991.

Legal aspects of international economic law and the new international economic order were examined by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The Commission dealt with the topics of international countertrade, procurement, guarantees and stand-by letters of credit, legal problems of electronic data interchange and draft Model Laws on International Credit Transfers and on Procurement. It reviewed the status of conventions that had resulted from its previous work, as well as its programme of training and assistance. The Assembly repeated its invitation to States that had not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the conventions elaborated under the auspices of the Commission.

Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter I (pp. 1005-1031)

United Nations financing and programming

In 1990, the financial uncertainty facing the UN system continued at a time when, as the Secretary-General observed, certain developments-especially the lifting of the deadening weight of the cold war and renewed vigour in the democratization process-had opened enormous opportunities to expand advances already made by the Organization.

The Administrative Committee on Coordination in June reiterated its profound concern regarding mounting arrears in contributions to the various regular budgets, which jeopardized international co-operation in the political, economic and technical fields. The Secretary-General, in December, stated that the possibility of imminent bankruptcy had been his constant preoccupation at the very time the United Nations had been called upon to undertake challenging new tasks. Once again, the General Assembly urged all Member States to meet their financial obligations under the Charter by paying promptly and in full all assessed contributions.

The revised budget appropriations for the biennium 1990-1991 added nearly \$160 million to the previously appropriated \$1,975 billion. Questions relating to the financing of UN peacekeeping operations were transmitted to the resumed Assembly session. Priorities for the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 were stated by the Secretary-General to be peacemaking, Africa, international drug control, and the environment and development.

The Secretary-General, in April, reported on the restructuring and reform of the United Nations, stating that the programme of administrative reforms initiated in 1986 had been largely implemented. There had been an 11.95 per cent reduction in regular-budget posts over three years. The Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to continue implementing reform.

The Committee on Contributions continued to work on the methodology for determining the scale of assessments of Member States' contributions to the UN budget and discussed at length ways to improve communication between Member States and the Committee. The Assembly requested the Committee to continue working to improve the methodology for the preparation of future scales. It determined the rates of assessment for two new Member States, Namibia and Liechtenstein, as well as for Germany, following the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany in October, and Yemen, after the merger of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic in May.

The accounts and financial statements for the year of the biennium ended 31 December 1989 for the United Nations and eight development and humanitarian programmes were accepted by the Assembly in 1990, together with conclusions and recommendations of the Board of Auditors. Efforts to improve programme planning, performance and evaluation continued throughout 1990.

The Assembly adopted the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, reaffirming its role as the United Nations principal policy directive. The Assembly also urged the Secretary-General to develop procedures to ensure that evaluation was fully integrated into the programme planning cycle. Harmonization of budgeting procedures among organizations of the UN system was considered by the Joint Inspection Unit, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Assembly reiterated the importance of co-ordination as a policy instrument in improving the organizations' performance.

Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter II (pp. 1032-1055)

United Nations staff

In 1990, the Secretary-General pursued efforts to improve United Nations Secretariat staff composition in the areas of nationality and gender. The General Assembly requested him to continue to do so, ensuring broad and equitable geographical distribution of staff and giving paramount consideration to securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The Assembly, as well as the Economic and Social Council, also requested him to take measures to increase the number of women employed throughout the United Nations system in posts subject to geographical distribution, thereby ensuring an overall participation rate of 30 per cent by the end of 1990, and to the extent possible to increase the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, so as to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995.

The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), the independent technical body responsible for the regulation and co-ordination of conditions of service for staff of the UN common system, made several recommendations to the Assembly, which approved, with effect from 1 March 1991, a revised scale of gross and net salaries in the Professional and higher categories. Upon consideration of ICSC's report, the Assembly took a number of other decisions affecting conditions of service. The Assembly also approved the recommendations of ICSC and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for the determination of the scale of pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories, and approved increases in salary and pension for the Secretary-General and other high-ranking officials.

The Secretary-General again reported that the number of arrests and detentions of UN officials remained very high, especially in the Middle East, with most of the cases relating to the arrest, detention and abduction of officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The Assembly called on Member States scrupulously to respect UN officials' privileges and immunities and to refrain from impeding them in the performance of their functions. It called for immediate release of illegally detained staff members and urged adherence to the relevant international instruments.

Considerable progress was made in the administration of justice within the Secretariat under revised disciplinary rules and, following consolidation of the appellate machinery, in eliminating the backlog of appeals. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue with reforms of the administration of justice and to establish by 1991 an effective system for informal settlement of staff grievances, together with a well-functioning disciplinary system.

Part six: Administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter III (pp. 1056-1067)

Other administrative and management questions

During 1990, the Committee on Conferences again examined ways in which conference resources within the United Nations system could be used more effectively. It considered the possibility of central planning and co-ordination of all organizational aspects of conference servicing; compliance by General Assembly subsidiary bodies with the 32-page limit for documents; rules and regulations relating to documentation control and limitation; the Organization's printing requirements; publications policies; application of new technology; its role in reviewing the restructuring of the Department of Conference Services, within the general restructuring of the Organization; the 1992-1997 medium-term plan in relation to conference and library services; and the revised 1991 calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations. In December, the Assembly approved the 1991 calendar as submitted by the Committee.

Action was taken by the Assembly on a number of questions related to the 1990-1991 programme budget, including the implementation of technological innovations; budget estimates for the International Computing Centre in Geneva; administrative and unified conference services at the United Nations offices in Vienna; the integrated management information system project; the construction of additional conference facilities in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Bangkok, Thailand; and the proposed optical disk storage and retrieval system.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter LXXIV (pp. 1071-1074)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established in 1957 to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, continued in 1990 to promote the exchange of scientific and technical information, to establish and administer safeguards, to provide technical information, to establish health and safety standards, and to provide technical assistance to its members.

The thirty-fourth session of the IAEA General Conference (Vienna, 17-21 September) reviewed progress made by the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage, established in February 1990, including draft amendments to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage [YUN 1963, p. 595]. The Conference adopted resolutions relating to nuclear safety and radiological protection; the 1987 Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material [YUN 1987, p. 1187]; safety guidelines for nuclear-powered vessels; prohibition of armed attacks against nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes; the use of nuclear desalinization for producing potable water; and the nuclear capabilities of Israel and of South Africa. It also adopted the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste.

IAEA membership decreased to 112 in 1990 with the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic into a single State (see PART ONE, Chapter IV).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter II (pp. 1075-1077)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), established in 1919 as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations, in 1990 continued activities in six major areas: 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) co-operation; and advancing human rights in the social and labour fields.

ILO membership decreased to 148 in 1990 due to the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic and that of Yemen and Democratic Yemen (see PART ONE, Chapter IV).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter III (pp. 1078-1081)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), established in 1945, continued in 1990 to help raise the living standards of the rural poor and improve agricultural productivity using techniques that did not degrade the environment. With its main objective remaining the global achievement of food security, FAO also continued to monitor food supply conditions worldwide and provide emergency relief.

The 49-member Council of FAO, the organization's governing body between biennial meetings of the FAO Conference, at its ninety-eighth session (Rome, 19-30 November), reviewed FAO's programmes and discussed relevant aspects of food, agriculture and rural development. In resolutions, the Council expressed concern over the world food outlook in the light of changes in the formerly centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe and the debt burdens that continued to hamper the economic growth of some developing countries. Among FAO priorities approved by the Council were increased resources for forestry research and expansion of the organization's efforts in environmental protection.

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

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter IV (pp. 1082-1084)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continued in 1990 to promote co-operation among nations in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. In accordance with the medium-term plan for 1990-1995—a general policy and strategy document adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1989—activities during the year aimed to meet the challenges of peace, development and protection of the environment by focusing on the priorities of education for all and literacy; protection of the environment and rational use of natural resources; promotion of scientific research and science education; preservation of cultural heritage; the cultural dimension of development; free flow of information and enhancement of communication capacities of developing countries; defence and affirmation of human rights; and propagation of a culture of peace.

Membership in UNESCO decreased in 1990 from 161 to 159 due to the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic into a single State and that of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (see PART ONE, Chapter IV).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter V (pp. 1085-1088)

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO), established in 1948, continued in 1990 to serve as the directing and coordinating authority on international health. WHO focused on disease prevention and control; promoting primary health care and the health of specific populations; addressing health issues related to environment and development; and encouraging implementation of a global strategy of health for all. The World Health Assembly, the governing body of WHO, at its forty-third session Geneva, 7-17 May), focused on the negative effects of the worsening economic situation in many countries on the health of populations.

During 1990, two States, Belize and Namibia, became members of WHO. However, with the merger of Yemen and Democratic Yemen into one State and the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany (see PART ONE, Chapter IV), WHO membership remained at 166.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter VI (pp. 1089-1090)

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), established in 1945, continued in 1990 to help raise living standards in developing countries by channelling financial resources to them from developed countries. Through loans and other economic assistance, the Bank financed all kinds of capital infrastructure, while at the same time emphasizing investments that directly affected the well-being of poor people in developing countries by making them more productive and by integrating them as active partners in the developmental process. The Bank also provided loans in support of structural adjustment and policy reform. For the fiscal year ending 30 June 1990, Bank lending totalled some \$15,180 million.

During 1990, membership in the World Bank increased to 154, with the admission of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Namibia, and the merger of Yemen with Democratic Yemen.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter VII (pp. 1091-1092)

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 1990 to further economic growth in developing member countries by promoting private investment. During 1990, IFC continued to expand its activities, achieving record volumes in its three principal areas of work-financing projects, mobilizing funds from other sources and providing advisory services-and launching a number of new initiatives. Increased attention was given to protecting the environment, with the IFC environmental adviser reviewing some 100 project proposals.

During fiscal year 1990 (1 July 1989-30 June 1990), Angola and Cape Verde joined IFC, increasing its membership to 135.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter VIII (pp. 1093)

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 to low-income countries on terms that bore less heavily on their balance of payments than those of the Bank. During fiscal year 1990 (1 July 1989-30 June 1990), IDA continued to concentrate on the very poor countries-those with an annual per capita gross national product of less than \$650 (in 1988 United States dollars). More than 40 countries were eligible under that criterion in fiscal 1990.

Agreement was reached during the fiscal year on the ninth replenishment of IDA resources (IDA-9), amounting to some \$15.5 billion for the three-year (fiscal 1991-1993) period. Thirty-one IDA members, plus Switzerland (not a member of IDA), contributed to IDA-9, among them seven members who were borrowers from the World Bank: Brazil, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Yugoslavia. Three programme areas earmarked for higher priority during IDA-9 were poverty reduction, support for sound macro-economic and sectoral policies, and the environment.

As at 30 June 1990, cumulative IDA commitments totalled \$58,222 million. During fiscal 1990, IDA approved credits (called credits to distinguish them from World Bank loans) totaling \$5,222 million, of which \$2,785.9 million went to 30 countries in Africa and \$2,222.3 million went to nine countries in Asia. The largest borrower was India, with eight credits totalling \$832.4 million, followed by China (five credits totalling \$590 million) and Bangladesh (five credits totaling \$540.1 million).

In fiscal 1990, 21 countries received 30 credits totalling \$1,661.6 million for agriculture and rural development; 14 received \$956.5 million in support of education projects; nine countries received \$535.1 million for transportation projects; eight countries were granted a total of \$444 million for non-project assistance; 10 countries received \$408.8 million for population, health and nutrition; and eight countries and the Caribbean region were extended \$326.7 million to assist development finance companies. In addition, urban development projects in nine countries were extended support totalling \$299.4 million; six countries received \$252.4 million for water supply and sewerage projects; and four countries were granted a total of \$219.8 million to assist with electric power programmes. Lesser amounts were granted as follows: \$157.5 million to five countries for small-scale enterprises; \$145.1 million to two countries and the Western Africa region for industry sector credits; \$45.6 million to three countries for public-sector management; \$45 million to five countries for technical assistance projects; and \$24.5 million to one country for a telecommunications project.

IDA membership in 1990 remained at 138.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter IX (pp. 1094-1096)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) continued in 1990 to monitor the international monetary system and to promote conditions conducive to a healthy world economy. Surveillance over the policies of its members remained the central activity of the Fund. That surveillance consisted of an ongoing monitoring and analysis of a broad range of domestic and external policies affecting members' price and growth performance, external payments balances, exchange rates and restrictive systems.

During the year, the IMF Executive Board, the Fund's permanent decision-making body, discussed, among other things, the effects of inflation and the implications of a monetary strategy aimed at achieving price stability. The Fund's 1990 fiscal year covered the period from 1 May 1989 to 30 April 1990.

IMF membership rose to 154 in 1990 with the admission of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Namibia. Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged into one State.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter X (pp. 1097-1099)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), an intergovernmental regulatory organization whose objectives were set forth in annexes to the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation, continued in 1990 to prescribe standards, practices and procedures for the safety, regularity and efficiency of civil air transport. During the year, ICAO accorded high priority to aviation security through efforts to develop a comprehensive and detailed ICAO aviation security training programme for world-wide implementation. In addition, airport and airspace congestion continued to be closely monitored.

In 1990, traffic on the world's scheduled airlines amounted to some 236 billion tonne-kilometres, an increase of 5.4 per cent over 1989. The airlines carried 1.2 billion passengers, 4 per cent more than in 1989. 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 over 3 per cent to some 59 billion tonne-kilometres and airmail traffic increased by almost 5 per cent to more than 5 billion tonne-kilometres.

In October, the ICAO Assembly held an extraordinary session to amend the Convention on International Civil Aviation to increase the membership of the Council from 33 to 36. The amendment would go into effect following ratification by a two-thirds majority of ICAO member States. The Assembly also agreed on a world-wide policy towards operating restrictions on subsonic jet aircraft with a view to noise reduction and approved a resolution condemning violation of the sovereignty of the airspace of Kuwait and the seizure of Kuwait International Airport by Iraqi armed forces (see PART TWO, Chapter III).

The ICAO Council held three regular sessions in 1990. In January, the Sub-Committee for the Preparation of a New Legal Instrument Regarding the Marking of Plastic Explosives for Detectability drew up the draft of a new international agreement intended to ensure that plastic explosives were marked with an additive to enhance their detectability. The Sub-Committee was convened in response to concerns about the dangers to the travelling public following the use of plastic explosives in the downing of Pan American flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988.

In 1990, ICAO membership decreased to 161 with the merger of Yemen with Democratic Yemen and the unification of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XI (pp. 1100-1101)

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

The Universal Postal Union (UPU), established in Berne, Switzerland, in 1874, continued during 1990 to promote the reciprocal exchange of postal services between nations through 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 1990, UPU membership decreased to 168, reflecting the merger of Yemen and Democratic Yemen into one State and the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany (see PART ONE, Chapter IV). No new members were admitted during the year.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XII (pp. 1102-1103)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

During 1990, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which was founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union and became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1947, continued to promote the development and efficient operation of telecommunications facilities and to offer technical assistance in its areas of expertise.

By 31 December, one Member State (Barbados) had ratified the ITU Constitution and International Telecommunication Convention (Nice, 1989). The Convention would enter into force 30 days after the deposit of 55 instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with ITU's secretariat.

The ITU Administrative Council held its forty-fifth session in Geneva from 11 to 22 June. It adopted the 1991 budget, considered the reports on the activities of the Union, and reviewed the first progress report of the High Level Committee, established in 1989 to study and recommend measures to ensure greater effectiveness of ITU organs in the context of the changing international telecommunications environment. In addition, the Council established a voluntary group of experts to study how to improve the use of the radio frequency spectrum and how to simplify radio regulations governing frequency use, and reviewed the development of direct remote access to ITU data bases.

ITU membership decreased from 166 to 164 in 1990 as a result of the merger of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the unification of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany (see PART ONE, Chapter IV).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XIII (pp. 1104-1107)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), established in 1950, continued its activities to facilitate world-wide co-operation related to meteorological information and the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, agriculture and other human activities. In March 1990, WMO commemorated its fortieth anniversary.

During the year, climate change and other environmental issues were emphasized. In June, the forty-second annual session of the Executive Council authorized the convening of an ad hoc working group to pave the way for negotiations on a climate change convention. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established jointly by WMO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), completed its first assessment report in August, and the Second World Climate Conference was convened in Geneva from 29 October to 7 November (see PART THREE, Chapter VIII).

WMO membership remained at 154 States and five territories during 1990.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XIV (pp. 1108-1109)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), which began work in 1959 as the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, continued in 1990 to develop and promote international shipping standards and treaties designed to improve maritime safety and prevent pollution from ships.

A new international instrument adopted during 1990 aimed at increasing the compensation paid to passengers involved in maritime accidents. Among other new treaty instruments and amendments that were adopted or entered into force during 1990 were measures designed to help combat oil pollution, improve the safety of passenger ships, especially roll-on/roll-off ferries, and institute a satellite-based maritime distress system.

IMO membership increased to 135 in 1990, with the admission of Belize and Sao Tome and Principe. IMO also had two associate members, Hong Kong and Macau.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XV (pp. 1110-1111)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

In 1990, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) continued to promote the protection and use of intellectual property both industrial property and copyright through development co-operation, norm-setting and registration activities. During the year, new activities were undertaken in the area of norm-setting for the protection and enforcement of international property rights, and an increase in international registration activities related to patents, marks and industrial designs was experienced. WIPO also completed work for new treaties or revised regulations related to patent law, copyright and the registration of marks.

The Governing Bodies of WIPO and the Unions administered by it, at their twenty-first series of meetings (Geneva, 24 September-2 October), decided to hold the Diplomatic Conference for the Conclusion of a Treaty Supplementing the Paris Convention as Far as Patents are Concerned (Patent Law Treaty) in The Hague, Netherlands, in June 1991.

During 1990, WIPO membership increased to 125, with the accession of Singapore to the 1967 Convention establishing WIPO, amended in 1979. At the end of 1990, the number of States adhering to other treaties administered by WIPO stood at: 100 States 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 Micro-organisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure; 34 to the Nice Agreement concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks; 35 to the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations; and 45 to the Patent Co-operation Treaty.

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XVI (pp. 1112-1113)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), established in 1977, continued in 1990 to provide concessional financial assistance to agricultural projects in low-income, food-deficit countries. The Fund aimed to increase food output while retaining environmental sustainability and focusing on support for poor rural women. By year's end, IFAD had committed a cumulative total of more than \$3,100 million of its own resources to 292 projects in 93 developing countries.

The IFAD Executive Board, during three regular sessions in 1990 (April, October, December), approved 27 loans for 26 projects, including three under the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification (SPA), and 37 technical assistance grants. The Board also approved a programme of work for 1991 at a level of 235 million special drawing rights (SDR) for loans and grants under the regular programme and endorsed SDR 17.2 million for the SPA programme of work.

IFAD membership stood at 144 in 1990, with non-original membership pending for Namibia. Of the current members, 21 were in Category I (developed countries), 12 in Category II (oil-exporting developing countries) and 111 in Category III (other developing countries).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XVII (pp. 1114-1117)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) continued in 1990 to promote industrialization through technical assistance and other activities in support of sectoral, regional and global industrial operations, strategies and investment. During the year, UNIDO undertook special multidisciplinary programmes related to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), 1980-1990, which included assistance to the least developed countries, industrial co-operation among developing countries, integration of women in industrial development, and co-operation with industrial enterprises and non-governmental organizations. The UNIDO Industrial Development Board, the organization's 53-member policy-making body, held its sixth (28 May-1 June) and seventh (5-9 November) sessions at UNIDO headquarters in Vienna.

As at 31 December 1990, UNIDO membership stood at 151. During the year Liberia and Myanmar became members and the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic became a single State, as did the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic (see PART ONE, Chapter IV).

Part seven: Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

Chapter XVIII (pp. 1117-1119)

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 was never accepted, ITO was not established. However, GATT-the only multilateral treaty that embodied reciprocal rights and obligations and laid down agreed rules for international trade-entered into force on 1 January 1948 with 23 contracting parties; ICITO provided the GATT secretariat.

By 31 December 1990, GATT membership had risen to 100 with the addition of Bolivia, Costa Rica, Tunisia and Venezuela during the year. In May, the GATT Council granted observer status to the USSR and established a working party to renegotiate the terms of accession of Poland in the light of that country's transition to a market economy.