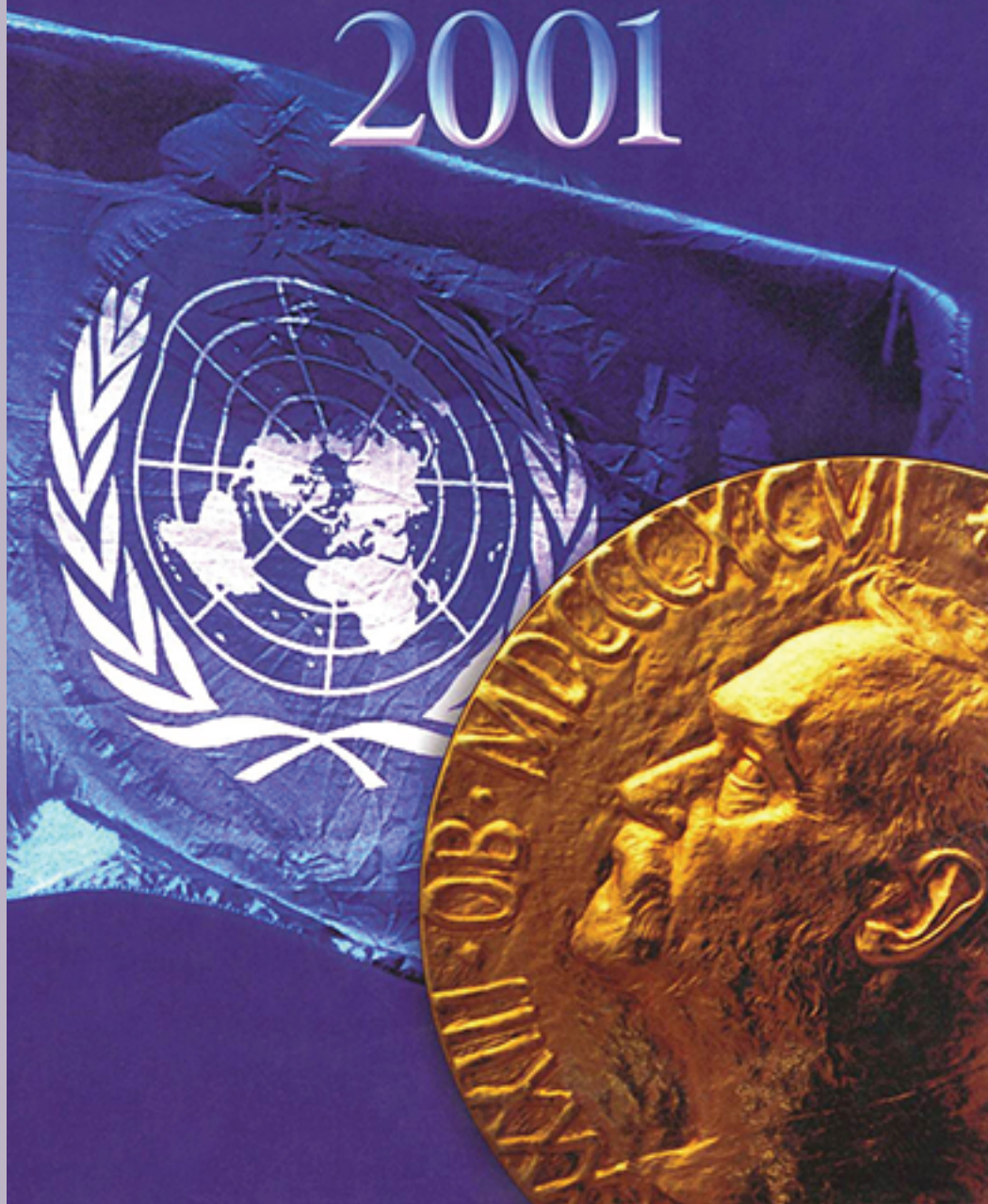


English
Express

The Yearbook of the United Nations
Yearbook Express

Yearbook of the United Nations
2001



Volume 55



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, 2001

Volume 55

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

Chapter I Introduction

1. My annual report on the work of the Organization reviews the efforts of the United Nations to find constructive solutions to the fundamental problems of our age. It is a sober recognition of the complexities of the tasks facing the Organization. At the same time, it underlines the enduring significance of the United Nations as an instrument of global cooperation for the common good.

2. The dawn of the new millennium brought an historic reaffirmation by Member States of the purposes and principles of their Organization. At the Millennium Summit, held from 6 to 8 September 2000 in New York, 147 heads of State and Government, and 189 Member States in total, adopted the Millennium Declaration, pledging their collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. In my report to the General Assembly entitled “Road map towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration”, I offer a programme for meeting those ambitious objectives.

3. One of the United Nations strengths is its capacity to adjust to changing international conditions. We must preserve this tradition of innovation while maintaining the principles of the Charter, which have guided the Organization for 56 years. We must prepare for the possibilities of the future and meet the new demands made on the United Nations.

4. During the past year, we have witnessed striking contrasts on the international scene, both encouraging developments and dangerous threats. These mixed global trends are a reminder that the pursuit of international peace and progress requires the sustained commitment and engagement of the community of nations.

5. Today, universal ideas — the sovereignty of the people, accountability of leaders, individual rights, and the rule of law — are spreading around the world. Yet there is no guarantee that these values will not be reversed, and that some nations will not once again succumb to tyranny and oppression.

6. The chapters of this report present a comprehensive review of the various activities of the United Nations system in pursuit of common objectives. The United Nations role in peace and security remains an essential part of its global responsibilities. Conflict prevention is of critical importance and requires a comprehensive understanding of the underlying causes and dynamics of violent conflict. The Organization’s authority as a credible instrument to prevent conflict depends on its capacity to address the root causes of deadly conflict.

7. The United Nations is about much more than peace and security. The value of the Organization in providing humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable in natural disasters and complex emergencies has frequently been affirmed.

8. As I have stressed often, development cooperation is a solid foundation on which to build stability, economic justice and social development. The nature and scope of the development challenge will require an unprecedented level of financial commitment and international cooperation. The United Nations has assisted in developing policies and tools to tackle the problems involved and to construct the building blocks of sustainable peace.

9. The quest of the United Nations to build a world of order and justice can be achieved only through respect for the rule of law in international affairs. The growth of international law, the ratification of international treaties, and the prosecution of war criminals by international tribunals will help to ensure that ruthless force does not prevail.

10. Management reform within the United Nations should always be viewed as a work in progress in which constant efforts are made to enhance the Organization’s effectiveness, efficiency and relevance.

11. In an increasingly globalized world, none of the critical issues we are dealing with can be resolved within a solely national framework. All of them require cooperation, partnership and burden-sharing among Governments, the United Nations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society. The United Nations has made important efforts to forge global partnerships to promote the international interest, but we need to reach out still further.

12. On 29 June 2001, Member States did me great honour in appointing me to a second term as Secretary-General. We have achieved a great deal over the past five years. I firmly believe, however, that we can and must do better.

13. The United Nations is an embodiment of the will of humankind to defeat violence with the power of reason and to achieve some betterment of the human condition. Its Member States work together to make principle and justice prevail in world affairs. I am confident that, with the active support of Member States and the peoples of the world, the United Nations will fulfil its promise as an indispensable institution for international cooperation.

Chapter I

Achieving peace and security

14. The United Nations activities in peace and security have been conducted against a background of suffering caused by virulent conflicts across the world. These conflicts involve a preponderance of civilian rather than combatant victims, many of them women and children; massive movements of refugees and internally displaced persons; increasingly complex (though widely varying) conflict-sustaining economies; and a ready access to weapons of all kinds, particularly small arms, which have a devastating impact on people and societies throughout the world. Such conflicts threaten stability, undermine human security, inflict suffering on many millions of people and damage local and regional economies, infrastructures and the environment, in ways that will have consequences for decades to come.

15. The United Nations has an obligation to prevent the outbreak of armed conflict wherever and whenever possible. To this end, I have reinforced my efforts to move the United Nations from a culture of reaction to one of prevention. In June 2001, I submitted a major report on the prevention of armed conflict to the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/55/985-S/2001/574 and Corr.1), in which I reviewed the progress that has been achieved in developing the capacity of the United Nations to prevent conflict and presented specific recommendations to enhance the efforts of the United Nations system in this field.

16. Where the United Nations is involved in peacekeeping or peace-building, preventing the recurrence of conflict is a central priority. In most cases today, our mandates for peacekeeping extend beyond the classic missions of the past, where lightly armed forces were interposed between armies, and involve providing assistance to local authorities in a wide range of areas. They may include humanitarian relief and mine action; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants; training of the police and judiciary; monitoring human rights; providing electoral assistance and strengthening national institutions to ensure that future problems can be resolved by democratic means without recourse to violence. In East Timor and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, where the United Nations heads transitional administrations, our responsibilities are still greater.

17. The field operations that conduct this broad array of tasks rely upon the support structures of the United Nations Secretariat to achieve their goals. As was ably documented by the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809), the current structures came into being through improvisation. In many respects they are insufficient, or poorly adapted to real needs. While many peacekeeping successes have been achieved, those involved have often had to make enormous efforts to overcome the deficiencies of existing structures.

18. As a result of the findings of the Panel on Peace Operations, the international community has begun to work towards the creation of secure and adequate foundations for an effective structure to support United Nations peace operations. Part of my own contribution has been to submit to the General Assembly a comprehensive review of all the elements within the Secretariat that play a role in peacekeeping operations (A/55/977). I have also charged my staff with the preparation of a draft plan of action on peace-building. The plan, now being finalized, is a practical guide for the United Nations system on how Headquarters can best support colleagues in the field in the formulation and implementation of coherent peace-building strategies.

19. In this respect, I warmly endorse the observation made by the President of the Security Council in his statement of 20 February 2001 that “a well-planned and coordinated peace-building strategy can play a significant role in conflict prevention” (S/PRST/2001/5). I welcome the Security Council’s growing interest in the protection of civilians, in particular of women and children, and its focused attention on issues such as HIV/AIDS. We have learned that, within the United Nations system, efforts to prevent conflict and to keep and build peace must be driven by realities in the field, underpinned by rigorous situation analysis, and sustained by timely and targeted support from Headquarters as well as adequate resources from Member States. I am optimistic that the efforts made in the last year to lay out our requirements for achieving peace and security will contribute substantially to achieving the pledges made in the Millennium Declaration, provided the necessary resources are made available by Member States.

Conflict Prevention and Peace making

20. While comprehensive and coherent conflict prevention strategies offer the greatest potential for promoting lasting peace, they have never been easy to formulate or to implement. I have been gratified to note that in recent years Member States are turning increasing attention and providing more assistance to conflict prevention. For the United Nations, the concept of conflict prevention must be put into practice, and the rhetoric matched by action.

21. My report on the prevention of armed conflict contains concrete recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of various United Nations organs, bodies, agencies and Secretariat departments and to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society in conflict prevention. It underlines that the development and humanitarian agencies of the United Nations system, together with the Bretton Woods institutions, have a vital role to play in creating a peaceful environment, as well as addressing the root causes of conflicts at the early stages of prevention. I intend to continue dispatching United Nations interdisciplinary fact-finding and confidence-building missions to volatile regions; to start submitting periodic regional or subregional reports to the Security Council on disputes that may potentially threaten international peace and security; to develop regional prevention strategies with regional partners, and organs and agencies of the United Nations, as appropriate; to establish an informal network of eminent persons for conflict prevention; and to improve the capacity and resource base for preventive action in the Secretariat. I look forward to constructive dialogue with Member States on the contributions that we may make together in the effort to ensure that a culture of prevention takes root in the international community.

22. In West Africa, the United Nations has intensified its partnership with the countries of the region. Collectively, we have concentrated on identifying potential threats to peace and are cooperating to prevent such challenges from deteriorating into violent conflict. This was the goal of the multidisciplinary missions I sent to the Gambia in November 2000 and to West Africa in March 2001. The Gambia's international partners have since undertaken to work closely with the country, within the framework of an integrated preventive strategy, to help strengthen the Gambia's capacity to avert a worsening of conditions. As a result of the second mission, a United Nations Office in West Africa will be established, headed by a Special Representative. The office will aim to enhance the United Nations capacity for monitoring, early warning and conflict prevention in the subregion and work closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other partners.

23. In an effort to expand the benefits of an integrated regional approach, I dispatched senior envoys to the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire at moments when the two countries faced acute tension and friction late in 2000. Their respective efforts gave us a more detailed understanding of the situation. The International Commission of Inquiry for Côte d'Ivoire, which I set up at the request of the Government to look into the violence that followed the presidential elections held on 22 October 2000, has completed its work. Its mission was to facilitate justice and prevent impunity, and also to promote healing and reconciliation within Ivorian society. In December 2000, I sent my Special Envoy to assess the impact of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on two of its immediate neighbours, the Central African Republic and the Republic of the Congo. The mission was also designed as a confidence-building measure to promote cooperation among the countries concerned in addressing common challenges along their shared borders.

24. The Millennium Declaration called for enhanced institutional cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. The utility of such an approach has been demonstrated in West Africa. Nowhere was this more evident than in the Mano River basin, where the United Nations, in collaboration with the three Mano River Union countries and ECOWAS, actively participated in addressing complex humanitarian, political and security situations affecting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. I have particularly supported ECOWAS initiatives to promote dialogue among the three countries, in the belief that, without such dialogue, efforts to address the root causes of the subregion's problems will remain insufficient and ineffective. Since the imposition of sanctions in May 2001, I have also stressed the importance of remaining engaged with Liberia in the pursuit of durable peace in the subregion.

25. Elsewhere in Africa, impetus was given to efforts to resolve two long-standing conflicts. In Burundi, the signing of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation on 28 August 2000 brought new momentum to the peace process. As stipulated in the Agreement, an Implementation Monitoring Committee was established under United Nations chairmanship to follow up, monitor, supervise, coordinate and ensure the effective implementation of all provisions of the Agreement. I appointed my Special Representative for the Great Lakes region as its chairman. The issue of the transitional leadership has since been resolved and a transitional government is expected to be established on 1 November 2001. However, the absence of a ceasefire remains an

impediment to the implementation of the Arusha Agreement. I remain hopeful that the negotiations between the armed rebel groups and the Government of Burundi, facilitated by the Deputy President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, on behalf of former President Nelson Mandela will soon prove successful.

26. The establishment of the Transitional National Government of Somalia, as a result of the Djibouti initiative, and its move to Mogadishu in October 2000, marked an important step in the effort to end the conflict in Somalia. Unfortunately, the lack of progress in completing the peace process and the precarious security situation in much of Somalia have so far prevented me from recommending to the Security Council the establishment of a United Nations peacebuilding mission in the country. We remain ready to assist whenever conditions permit and I urge the international community to remain engaged in the search for an end to Somalia's long nightmare.

27. I cannot report significant changes in Angola, where the war continues to cause intense suffering. The Government has indicated a willingness to resume dialogue with UNITA with a view to completing the remaining tasks under the Lusaka Protocol. Both sides have reiterated their commitment to the Lusaka Protocol, although they continue to disagree on how to complete its implementation. My Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa continues to pay special attention to Angola. The United Nations remains ready to assist the Government and others concerned to end the war, and to provide technical assistance for the elections to be held in 2002 and maintain its programmes of humanitarian relief and capacitybuilding in the field of human rights.

28. In the Middle East, the deteriorating situation in the region, resulting in the worst crisis since the signing of the Oslo Agreement in 1993, remains a source of great concern for the international community. The outbreak of violence in the occupied Palestinian territory and in Israel late in September 2000 has brought extensive loss of life and serious decline of the economic conditions on both sides, as well as a devastating deterioration of the humanitarian situation for the Palestinians. In view of the gravity of the situation and its negative implications for international peace and security, I have devoted much of my personal attention to this issue. I have maintained close and regular contacts with the parties and other leaders in the region and the international community to find a way forward. I visited the region in October 2000 to explore avenues to end the violence and to revive the peace process. I worked with the parties and the leaders of the United States of America, the European Union, Egypt and Jordan to reach an understanding at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit on the steps required to end the confrontation. The report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-finding Committee, known as the Mitchell report, which was released in April, provided a viable basis for a return to the negotiating table, and I fully endorsed its recommendations. In June 2001, I went again to the Middle East to encourage the parties to consolidate the ceasefire agreement and move towards full implementation of the Mitchell report.

29. The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians can be resolved only through a political settlement. To this end, I once again urge both sides to end violence, adhere to the security agreements already agreed upon and restart a viable political process leading to peace and reconciliation. 30. The dramatic developments during the year under review and the tragic loss of life have underlined the urgency of reaching a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

31. In view of Iraq's continuing non-compliance with Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1284 (1999), the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission has not been deployed. It remains a great concern that, since December 1998, the United Nations has not been able to verify Iraq's adherence to Security Council resolutions regarding weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, Iraq continues its non-cooperation with the High-level Coordinator, who is seeking to repatriate all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and secure the return of Kuwaiti property. I deeply regret the continuing suffering of the Iraqi people and share their hopes that sanctions can be lifted sooner rather than later. While I am prepared to resume my dialogue with the Government of Iraq, a first round of which was held in February 2001, Iraq must reconsider its noncooperation with the Security Council if it wishes to make progress towards an eventual lifting of the sanctions.

32. Little or no progress has been made towards ending the conflict in Afghanistan, despite the tireless efforts of my Personal Representative to bring the warring parties to the negotiating table. In the year under review, a severe drought has added to the woes of the Afghan people and the humanitarian crisis now afflicting the country has contributed to a sense of hopelessness, further aggravating the plight of Afghan civilians, particularly women and girls, under the harsh policies of the Taliban regime. This conflict, like so many others we face around the world, cannot be considered in isolation from its regional context. A solution can be advanced only with the active and coordinated support of neighbouring States, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and

Pakistan, and other members of the “six plus two” group of countries. A more coordinated approach by the international community will be required if significant progress in addressing the problems of Afghanistan is to be achieved.

33. Over the past two years, sporadic fighting, including hostage-taking, initiated by extremist and terrorist forces has affected some countries in Central Asia. These isolated but worrisome developments are related in part to the situation in Afghanistan and in part to other factors such as deteriorating economic conditions and the resulting social tensions. In cooperation with Member States in the region and other interested parties, the United Nations is prepared to offer assistance in the political, developmental and humanitarian fields in order to address the root causes of instability.

34. In March 2001, I visited several countries in South Asia. In my meetings with the leaders of India and Pakistan, I urged them to resume their bilateral dialogue with a view to reducing tensions in the region, including Kashmir. I was greatly encouraged that the leaders of India and Pakistan held a summit meeting at Agra in July. I hope that the useful discussions held there will continue and develop into a sustained dialogue. While I remain concerned at the unresolved civil war in Sri Lanka, I hope that the good offices of Norway will soon result in the initiation of peace talks.

35. In East Asia, I am pleased to report that a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Bougainville has been reached. Following talks between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville parties, facilitated by the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, a comprehensive agreement covering the issues of autonomy, referendum and weapons disposal was reached on 22 June 2001. The involvement of regional countries and the consistent support of the Security Council were crucial to the achievement of this agreement.

36. In the implementation of the mandate entrusted to me by the General Assembly, my Special Envoy and I have continued to encourage the Government of Myanmar to engage in a substantive dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in order to achieve national reconciliation and to return the country to democratic rule. During the year under review, a number of steps have been taken to build confidence between the two sides. The United Nations is committed to continuing to facilitate the dialogue and looks forward to further progress.

37. Together with relevant agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, I intend to enhance our efforts to assist Indonesia as it seeks to establish a democratic society and to address the wide range of complex issues facing the country. It is my firm belief that Indonesia's territorial integrity can best be assured by adherence to democratic norms and the promotion of human rights. To this end, efforts should be made to support the reform process that the Government is implementing, as well as to help find peaceful resolutions to the problems in regions such as Aceh, Maluku and West Papua.

38. I shall also continue to search for ways and means to contribute to inter-Korean rapprochement and other positive developments in the region. I believe that the international community should take active measures to foster peace and stability in this region and urge Member States to consider further support for promoting dialogue, trust and reconciliation on the peninsula.

39. In Europe, proximity talks on Cyprus with the parties, led by Glafcos Clerides and Rauf Denktash, proceeded under my auspices until November 2000. However, Mr. Denktash asked that no date be set for talks early in 2001. Although it was not possible to resume talks immediately, my Special Adviser continued to hold consultations with a number of Governments and organizations, making preparations to be of further assistance to the parties at the appropriate time. Late in August, I met Mr. Denktash at Salzburg with a view to moving towards an early resumption of the process.

40. My Special Representative for Georgia, in cooperation with the Russian Federation as facilitator, the members of the group of Friends of the Secretary-General for Georgia, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has continued his efforts to pursue a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict. The two sides were able to agree on a series of concrete confidence-building steps at the Third High-level Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures, which was held at Yalta in March 2001 at the invitation of the Government of Ukraine.

41. In Latin America, my Special Adviser on International Assistance to Colombia maintained regular contacts in Colombia and abroad. Peace talks between the Government and the two largest guerrilla groups proceeded intermittently throughout the year. Nevertheless, the violence intensified, resulting in frequent violations of human rights and in growing numbers of internally displaced persons. Analysts have warned that fighting, displacement and drug cultivation are likely to increase and spread further beyond the borders of Colombia. The United Nations stands ready, at the request of the parties to the conflict, to assist further in

promoting a peaceful resolution. It is my hope that the parties will take urgent measures to cease violence against the unarmed civilian population and to ensure full respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. I also remain concerned at the adverse environmental effects that the cultivation of drug crops, the processing of narcotics and forced eradication efforts have had. The combination of counter-narcotics and counter-insurgency efforts poses the risk of a regional arms race and could lead to a spread of fighting, displacement and drug cultivation beyond the borders of Colombia.

Peacekeeping and peace-building

42. While the conflicts that United Nations peacekeeping operations seek to address are complex and daunting, I am gratified to report that the international community has shown a renewed appreciation for the value of United Nations peacekeeping, a determination to acknowledge openly and learn from peacekeeping failures and successes, and an increased commitment to give peacekeepers the tools and resources they need to accomplish their missions.

43. The key factors for successful peacekeeping remain the will of parties on the ground; realistic mandates based on a well-understood and common overall strategy; and readiness to support those mandates politically and through the provision of appropriate human and material resources. To have a lasting impact, peacekeeping must be supported and accompanied by a process of peace-building, to prevent the recurrence of armed conflict and permit recovery and development.

44. Over the past year, the Secretariat has sought to lay secure and adequate foundations for an effective peacekeeping structure while providing daily direction and support to the operations in the field. The report of the Panel on Peace Operations and its subsequent endorsement by the Millennium Summit gave this reform process, rooted in an ongoing dialogue with Member States, renewed focus and momentum. My initial report on the implementation of the Panel's recommendations, presented in October 2000, offered a number of practical measures to support the broad objectives identified by the Panel. Member States responded positively to many of my suggestions and provided significant additional resources to the Secretariat for peacekeeping. They also requested more detail in a number of areas, however, and underlined their interest in a further, comprehensive review of the Secretariat's peacekeeping capacity. In response, on 1 June 2001, I issued a second report (A/55/977).

45. My second report adopted the comprehensive approach requested by Member States, and proposed further steps for improving peacekeeping capacity. These included proposals for enhancing the Secretariat's planning capacity at three levels — strategic, policy and operational — in order to move from a reactive mode towards advanced planning. In addition, I outlined measures to develop a more effective relationship between Headquarters and the field; to ensure a closer collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other departments in the Secretariat engaged in supporting peacekeeping; to enhance logistical support for operations in order to achieve the 30-day to 90-day time frames for deployment recommended by the Panel on Peace Operations; to develop within the Secretariat a more effective capacity for analysis that can draw upon the wealth of information available from open sources and from within the Organization; and to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field.

46. Implementation of these reforms will make demands upon the Secretariat and on Member States. Some of the measures proposed will require immediate investment for future benefits, while others will require political compromise. Nonetheless, I am convinced that their adoption will improve our capacity to respond to the demands that will be made of us.

47. In addition to underlining the need to enhance United Nations peacekeeping capacity, the Member States resolved, in the section of the Millennium Declaration on meeting the special needs of Africa, "to encourage and sustain regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent".

48. While African States and regional and subregional organizations have shown a growing interest in playing a role in peacekeeping operations in Africa, the limited resources available to them continue to be a major impediment. Support for building African peacekeeping capacity can take the form of assistance to specific operations or of incremental steps to enhance capability — for example, provision by the international community of information, expertise and logistical and financial resources. The Secretariat's efforts in this regard have included cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern Africa Development Community and, more recently, the Economic Community of Central African States in areas such as training, information-sharing, staff exchanges, and participation in regional

peacekeeping exercises, as well as the strengthening of the United Nations standby arrangements system and mine action programmes. The Secretariat has also continued to facilitate contacts between African troop contributors to United Nations operations and donor States, and to promote agreement between African and non-African States regarding assistance.

49. The international community should be conscious, however, that efforts to enhance African peacekeeping capacity cannot become a justification for reduced engagement in the continent. Support by non-African States for peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts in Africa, including deployment of peacekeeping troops, will remain essential in the foreseeable future. The experience of United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa during the year under review demonstrates this most vividly.

50. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, President Laurent-Désiré Kabila was succeeded in January 2001 by his son, General Joseph Kabila. Since then, the situation has undergone a marked change. The ceasefire under the Lusaka Agreement was re-established and has remained in force without major violations. Deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has continued without incident. Prospects also improved on the political front after President Joseph Kabila invited Sir Ketumile Masire to resume his work as facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, upon which peace and stability in the country depend.

51. MONUC is now entering the phase of the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement during which all foreign forces should be withdrawn from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the armed groups disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated or repatriated. The Security Council has authorized the expansion of the civilian components of MONUC to enable it to play a larger role, particularly in the political, humanitarian, human rights and childprotection areas. This is an important development as the humanitarian problems faced by the country, all of them exacerbated by the conflict, are very serious. Some 16 million people are affected by severe shortages of food; millions of children suffer from malnutrition; more than a third of the population lacks access to even basic medical care, and half has no access to clean water; and serious violations of human rights continue to be reported throughout the country.

52. In implementing its peacekeeping mandate in Sierra Leone and in cooperation with regional leaders, the United Nations has continued to pursue a dual-track approach, combining credible military pressure with constructive political dialogue. With the recent arrival of additional troops, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has consolidated its presence in nearly all parts of the country. Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Agreement on Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities between the Government and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), signed at Abuja in November 2000, as a result of a number of followup meetings between the parties, UNAMSIL and ECOWAS. The ceasefire has held, and over 13,000 combatants from both pro-Government forces and RUF were disarmed from May to August 2001 under a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. Peace consolidation and confidencebuilding measures taken by the Government have included the release of some RUF detainees and other steps to help facilitate the transformation of RUF into a political party. In July 2001, the Government indicated its intention to seek Parliamentary approval for a second six-month extension of its current term of office, which will expire at the end of September 2001. The Government has just announced an indefinite postponement of elections. In the area of addressing impunity and promoting reconciliation, planning for the establishment of the Special Court and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission is under way. As the deployment of UNAMSIL nears completion and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme makes further progress, the Government will be expected to step up its efforts to extend its authority across the country, particularly in the diamond-producing areas. Sustained international support remains vital to the success of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. Moreover, the underlying political problems of the country, which the civil war has exacerbated, will need to be addressed by the Government and people of Sierra Leone.

53. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) was launched in September 2000, and has played a key role in helping the two countries emerge from their tragic and destructive war. The tasks of the peacekeepers include the monitoring of the ceasefire, verification of the redeployment of Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, establishment of mine and unexploded ordnance clearance operations, and monitoring of a Temporary Security Zone between the two countries in accordance with the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities signed at Algiers on 18 June 2000. A second Agreement, reached on 12 December 2000, provided for the establishment of a Boundary Commission to delimit and demarcate the common border and so resolve the border dispute which was the immediate cause of the war. The conclusion of the delimitation and demarcation of the border will lead to termination of the peacekeeping mission. The Boundary Commission has now been formally constituted, and it has agreed to a tentative timeline for the first phase of its work, namely, the delimitation of the border.

54. The search for a mutually acceptable solution between the parties in Western Sahara remained the focus of the United Nations efforts to overcome the multiple problems impeding implementation of the settlement plan. After meeting with officials of the Government of Morocco to determine if Morocco, as the administrative Power in Western Sahara, was prepared to offer or support some devolution of authority to the Territory that would be substantial and in keeping with international norms, my Personal Envoy presented a draft framework agreement on the status of Western Sahara to the Frente POLISARIO and to the Government of Algeria. In view of the adoption of resolution 1359 (2001) by the Security Council, the parties are expected to meet directly or through proximity talks under the auspices of my Personal Envoy to discuss the draft framework agreement, and negotiate specific changes to the document.

55. The situation along the border between Israel and Lebanon is volatile. While the situation over the past year along the withdrawal line, or "Blue Line", was generally calm, there were tensions and serious breaches of the line connected to the dispute over the Shab'a farms area. The Government of Lebanon has yet to take all the necessary steps to ensure the return of its effective authority throughout the south down to the Blue Line, where the activities of armed elements keep the situation unstable. Persistent Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace have created additional tension. The Security Council has repeatedly called for all parties concerned to respect fully the Blue Line, most recently in resolution 1365 (2001).

56. The functions of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon are now largely those of an observer mission. Accordingly, the Force has commenced a reconfiguration exercise and is reducing its numbers.

57. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) has made important strides in ensuring that its core police reforms will be completed by the end of the Mission's mandate. Registration of the country's 24,007 police personnel was completed in May 2001, while final certification with appropriate background checks continues. The Mission's police training programmes are nearing conclusion. The Mission also issued a new policy for monitoring police performance. In response to incidents of mob violence, UNMIBH has taken the lead in establishing training support units, and is seeking to obtain anti-riot equipment. However, the percentage of minority representation in the local police force remains very low. The Mission is in need of donor assistance to meet minority police representation targets in both entities.

58. In the second year of its mandate, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has focused on the progressive transfer of public administration responsibilities to local control. Steps to ensure this were the holding of municipal elections in October 2000, and my Special Representative's promulgation, early in 2001, of a Constitutional Framework for Provisional SelfGovernment. This has paved the way for the Kosovowide elections that will be held on 17 November 2001. UNMIK continues to encourage all communities, particularly the Kosovo Serb community, to participate in the existing UNMIK-led structures and is urging them to register for elections. With a view to strengthening law and order, one of the major challenges in Kosovo, UNMIK established a new pillar,¹ which combines UNMIK police and the Department of Judicial Affairs into a single structure.

59. UNMIK continues to face critical challenges, such as the protection of the rights of all communities, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, the issue of the missing and detainees, the adoption of confidence-building measures vis-à-vis the Kosovo Serb community, the development of constructive dialogue with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the fight against terrorism and organized crime, and the impact of the deteriorating security situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

60. The serious threat posed by mines and unexploded ordnance in Kosovo is being successfully addressed and mitigated; mine action operations are moving towards implementation of an exit strategy in the coming year.

61. The situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a source of grave concern. The country is riven by an ethnic conflict that threatens to spiral into civil war. The recent crisis, which began last February with a military campaign by ethnic Albanian armed groups, is a result of festering inter-ethnic demographic pressures, internal political dynamics and the links between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and its neighbours, including Kosovo. The crisis is continuing, despite several cessation of hostilities agreements and mediation efforts by the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which remains in the lead. These efforts have my personal support. The Security Council remains seized of the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I have continued to exchange views on the situation while exploring areas where the United Nations may be of assistance.

62. I reported last year that positive developments on the ground had allowed for two peacekeeping operations, in Tajikistan and the Central African Republic, to be closed down and replaced with smaller peace-

building support offices. These offices, like others in Africa and in Guatemala, have continued to lead United Nations efforts to consolidate peace and promote democratization and the rule of law.

63. The United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding (UNTOP) provides a political framework and leadership for a variety of peace-building activities in Tajikistan. Together with the country team, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office has made a significant contribution to mobilizing international support for programmes that create employment and train former irregular fighters as part of their reintegration into civilian life. In May 2001, UNTOP, UNDP and the World Bank convened a successful donor conference in Tokyo, where pledges exceeded \$400 million.

64. Working in close cooperation with Governments and civil society, the three United Nations post-conflict peace-building support offices currently operating in Africa, in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia, are trying to create an enabling political environment for addressing the post-conflict priorities facing the three countries and their fragile democratic institutions. This includes providing the political framework and leadership for integrating the peacebuilding activities of the United Nations country team, mobilizing international assistance to address pressing economic and social problems, and promoting national reconciliation and dialogue and strengthening local capacities for managing crises. Efforts continue to assist the rebuilding of the judiciary and the legislature, in promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights, and enhancing relations between each country and its neighbours.

65. The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) has continued to verify compliance with the peace agreements reached in 1996. The President of Guatemala has frequently reiterated his Government's commitment to the peace process. Yet implementation of the agreements continues to face numerous obstacles and pending commitments have been rescheduled until the end of 2004. In a context of increasing polarization, MINUGUA has encouraged political alliances around the peace agenda in order to foster cooperation between the Government and civil society. At my request, my Chief of Staff travelled to Guatemala recently to underline my concern about the faltering peace process. He expressed my hope that the Government and influential sectors of civil society, specifically the private sector, would enter into a constructive dialogue to overcome the growing polarization in the country. I am convinced that at this political juncture it is necessary to mobilize all efforts to ensure the irreversibility of the peace process. However, unless the Government assumes ownership of and leads that process, democracy in Guatemala will remain fragile and social discontent may increase. While the United Nations will continue to support the implementation of the peace agreements, it cannot and should not become a substitute for the social and political commitments required of Guatemalans to build their future.

66. The International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAHA) has faced serious obstacles during this year. In my final report on the Mission (A/55/905), the mandate of which ended on 6 February 2001, I provided a sobering assessment of the situation in the country and expressed my hope that the Government and the opposition would enter into a political dialogue aimed at reconciliation. For the post-MICAHA period, the United Nations has put in place a comprehensive transition programme coordinated by UNDP. The programme emphasizes human rights, favours consensus-building and conflict reduction, and seeks strong civil society participation. Since the closure of MICAHA, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have taken the lead in international efforts to improve the prospects for negotiations between the Government and the opposition. I welcome the efforts of OAS at mediation and negotiation, and look forward to the outcome of its joint initiative with CARICOM.

67. The engagement of OAS in Haiti exemplifies the close cooperation and coordination of efforts between the United Nations and regional organizations that are required for peace-building. In order to further such cooperation, in February 2001, I convened the fourth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations on cooperation for peacebuilding. The meeting adopted a Framework for Cooperation in Peace-building, in which we agreed on guiding principles for cooperation in this field, as well as on possible joint activities.

68. In less than two years since its inception, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), in partnership with the East Timorese people and in close coordination with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, has made considerable progress towards fulfilling the broad mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council to assist the country in its transition to self-government and to establish conditions for sustainable development, while ensuring security, law and order throughout the territory and providing humanitarian assistance. The 12 months under review have seen intensive activity. Through power-sharing arrangements with UNTAET, the East Timorese have gradually taken charge of government responsibilities.

They have also been vested with executive power in a mixed international/Timorese Cabinet, and have exercised legislative responsibilities in an all-Timorese National Council.

69. On 15 September 2001, following the election on 30 August of a Constituent Assembly to prepare a Constitution for an independent and democratic East Timor, the country will enter the final transition phase, with the formation of a new and expanded all-Timorese Cabinet and the convening of the Constituent Assembly. If so decided by its members, the Constituent Assembly may in due course become the first legislature of an independent East Timor. Once the Constitution is approved and the necessary elections are held, perhaps early in 2002, East Timor will be ready to declare independence, with the Security Council's endorsement. Independence will not, however, precipitate East Timor's abandonment by the international community. Plans are under way for a possible United Nations mission to succeed UNTAET. This new mission would continue to provide a military and police presence and to assist the new Government in those areas that could not be consolidated during UNTAET.

70. I am aware of concern among Member States regarding the level of resources committed to this operation. I am also aware of the comprehensive responsibility the United Nations has assumed in East Timor. I therefore favour a prudent approach that seeks to safeguard the international community's considerable investment in East Timor's future. In the interest of effectiveness, and to ensure that the population of East Timor can build upon the investment made, I believe that once UNTAET is closed down, and after the independence of East Timor is declared, substantial international support should continue to be provided, through an integrated and well-coordinated mission led by a Special Representative, mandated by the Security Council and funded from assessed contributions.

71. United Nations peace-building activities continue to be strengthened by increasingly dynamic cooperation and coordination across the system. This cooperation is perhaps best exemplified at the field level, where peace operations interact regularly with the different entities of the United Nations system engaged in peace-building and preventive work, including emergency operations led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relief agencies, and the long-term work of entities like UNDP. Work in the field of human rights is of particular importance for both early warning and peace-building. In this regard, cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by the human rights component of a peacekeeping operation or with the High Commissioner's own field presence is of paramount importance to the Organization's work.

Electoral assistance

72. Requests for United Nations electoral assistance have increased during the year under review. Major electoral missions were conducted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor and Sierra Leone. In November 2000, local elections were successfully held in Kosovo, where area-wide elections are currently being prepared. Assistance to the Peruvian electoral process culminated in the completion of the second round of presidential voting early in June 2001.

73. Several elections that have been held during the past year suggest important progress towards democratization. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Peru, incumbent regimes organized elections in the expectation that voters would simply renew their mandates as they had done in the past. In each case, the electorate voted out the regime or protested so strongly against attempts by the incumbents to remain in office that they eventually submitted their resignations. In the Philippines, popular protests spurred by allegations of corruption toppled the President. These examples suggest that public awareness of democratic rights — such as freedom of the press, the rule of law, and free and fair elections — is rising, and that citizens are beginning to act upon this awareness. They are holding their leaders accountable. Moreover in the era of globalization, when information moves instantaneously around the world, each instance of successful popular action reinforces and invigorates others.

74. This change has had important repercussions for United Nations electoral assistance. The emphasis on capacity-building will continue, but assistance will also be more specifically targeted to supporting particular institutions and stimulating greater local participation. In Nigeria, for example, an innovative project is providing encouragement and support to Nigerian civil society in designing and implementing civic education programmes.

Disarmament

75. In the Millennium Declaration, world leaders resolved to strive to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to reduce the global risks posed by small arms and landmines. Uncertainties about the status of the strategic relationship between the leading nuclear-weapon Powers and continuing

divergence of views among States on priorities and perspectives, however, continue to inform the debate and block further movement on global security and disarmament.

76. Global military expenditures have continued to rise, the increase occurring in some industrialized countries and in a number of developing countries. Although official development assistance levels have continued to fall during the year, military budgets have risen persistently. Conservative estimates suggest that annual military expenditures exceed \$800 billion, or 80 per cent of average cold war global military expenditures.

77. The level of international cooperation in disarmament remains disappointingly low. This is especially evident in the Conference on Disarmament — a crucial part of the multilateral disarmament machinery — where in 2001 no consensus on a programme of work could be reached. I hope that the appointment by the Conference of three special coordinators will help to bring about some forward movement next year. Several multilateral agreements still await either entry into force or effective implementation. The historic agreements reached at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have yet to be fully realized.

78. Although 161 States have signed and 79 States have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the challenges that confront its entry into force still persist. At the request of the majority of the States parties, I have decided to convene the second Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty, which will be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2001. It is my hope that the prevailing global moratorium on nuclear testing will be strictly observed pending the Treaty's entry into force.

79. I am concerned that plans to deploy national missile defences threaten not only current bilateral and multilateral arms control agreements but also ongoing and future disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. In order to avert a new arms race, I encourage continuing consultation on these issues. Multilateral negotiations towards legally binding, irreversible and verifiable disarmament agreements are essential.

80. Multilaterally negotiated norms against missile proliferation would considerably reduce the threat posed by ballistic missiles armed with conventional weapons or weapons of mass destruction. At the General Assembly's request, I have convened a panel of governmental experts to review and report in 2002 on the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

81. Negotiations on a verification protocol to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention, enhance its effectiveness, and promote a higher degree of transparency have not led to agreement. It is expected that the work to strengthen the Convention will be addressed at the Fifth Review Conference of the Parties, scheduled to begin on 19 November 2001. The Chemical Weapons Convention has played a vital role in international efforts to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction, to curb their proliferation and to achieve their elimination. Increased effort is required to ensure the Convention's universality, and continued political and financial support for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is vital to ensuring that its mandated tasks are effectively and efficiently carried out.

82. The dangerous global prevalence of small arms and light weapons has attracted increasing attention in recent years. The United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held from 9 to 20 July 2001, mobilized Governments, regional organizations, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society, and provided an historic opportunity for international debate on the illicit small arms trade. The Programme of Action, which was adopted by consensus, is a significant first step towards the goal of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It included guidelines for practical action at the national, regional and international levels. The Conference did not achieve consensus on all issues, however. I encourage Governments to continue work on those issues and urge Member States to act upon the key recommendations of the Conference.

83. Member States are increasingly requesting the Secretariat to implement practical disarmament measures in the context of peace-building efforts. Weapons collection projects and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes have been developed in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Although a lack of adequate resources continues to hamper their work, regional centres for peace and disarmament have expanded their activities and initiated the provision of advisory and training services. Efforts are under way to seek more contributions from interested Member States in order to cope with growing requests for assistance.

84. Adherence to the amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons has grown, the total number of States which have adhered to the amended Protocol II now being 58. An additional 12 countries acceded to or ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines, while States parties

continued to work towards its implementation. It is estimated that production of landmines has all but ceased, transfer of anti-personnel landmines has sharply dropped, and existing stockpiles in many countries are steadily being destroyed. By the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, in September 2000, 25 States parties had completed the destruction of their mines, and elimination was ongoing in 24 others.

Sanctions

85. The risk of adverse effects of sanctions on innocent populations or third parties highlights the tension inherent in the Organization's dual mandate to preserve international peace and to protect human needs. Sanctions should be forceful enough to persuade targeted leaders to move towards political compliance, but not so severe as to precipitate humanitarian distress that undermines the viability of the policy and of the instrument itself.

86. I welcome the continued development of the concept of targeted sanctions, evident in the sanctions measures that the Security Council has imposed during the year under review. In December 2000, by resolution 1333 (2000), the Council extended the flight ban and added an arms embargo to the targeted financial sanctions previously imposed against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. In March 2001, by resolution 1343 (2001), the Council imposed a travel ban and an embargo on diamonds from Liberia. In both cases, the Security Council sought to focus pressure on those responsible for behaviour that contravened international norms of peace and security, while minimizing the impact of its action on civilian populations and affected third States.

87. The recommendations of the Security Council informal Working Group on General Issues on Sanctions should prove a valuable contribution to the sanctions debate. In the meantime, I warmly welcome the continued use of investigative panels to document sanctions violations, including illicit arms trafficking and illegal sales of diamonds.

Chapter II

Meeting humanitarian commitments

88. Sadly, the turn of the millennium has not been accompanied by a reduction in the suffering caused by natural disasters and complex emergencies throughout the world. Protracted conflicts continue in Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Sudan, while crises escalated or erupted in Burundi, Indonesia, Liberia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to mention several prominent examples. Vulnerable civilian populations continue to be deliberate targets of violence and to bear the brunt of the suffering caused by conflict. The deplorable attacks on humanitarian workers have also persisted. Heads and representatives of all 189 Member States paid tribute to those victims of violence at the Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000.

89. The scale and number of natural disasters continue to grow, escalating the demand for humanitarian assistance. During the past year, continuing drought in the Horn of Africa, Central America and Central and South Asia left a trail of devastation. Severe floods wrought destruction and large-scale displacement in southern Africa and Asia. North-east Asia experienced devastating cold. Massive earthquakes struck in El Salvador and India, causing enormous loss of life and damage to infrastructure. This growing need for humanitarian assistance requires greater efficiency in relief efforts carried out by the aid community, civil society and national Governments.

Coordinating humanitarian action and the protection of civilians

90. Coordination, both within the humanitarian community and between humanitarian initiatives and peace and security efforts, has continued to improve during the year. Special attention has been paid to improving coordination between humanitarian action and peace operations, in accordance with my note guiding the relationship between Representatives of the Secretary-General, resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators.

91. In my second report to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2001/331), I stated that the realities of distressed populations had not changed. Little progress had been made in implementing the 40 recommendations in my first report (S/1999/957) or in the two subsequent Security Council resolutions on the subject (resolutions 1265 (1999) and 1296 (2000)). I therefore urged the Security Council to shift the focus from reporting on this issue to implementing agreed recommendations.

92. Progress in protecting civilians threatened by armed conflict is measured in lives and livelihoods, and freedom from fear. Success depends on the willingness of Member States and international actors, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, to take appropriate and necessary action to protect civilians in armed

conflict, particularly women, children and the elderly. The efforts to build the “culture of protection” that I called for in my second report should extend beyond the United Nations, and will require continued action and cooperation on the part of Governments, regional organizations, international and domestic non-governmental organizations, the media, the private sector and academia and civil society as a whole.

93. In the report and its recommendations it is argued that international action must complement, rather than serve as a substitute for, the responsibilities of States. The primary responsibility for protecting civilians in armed conflict rests with States, as recognized by the Member States when they pledged in the Millennium Declaration “to expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law”. Given the predominantly internal nature of today’s armed conflicts, my report also highlighted the need to engage armed groups in protecting distressed populations.

94. Of the tens of millions of persons displaced worldwide, roughly half have been displaced by armed conflict. During the past year, the United Nations continued to strengthen humanitarian responses to crises of internal displacement. In July 2000, the InterAgency Standing Committee mandated a Senior InterAgency Network on Internal Displacement to carry out reviews of particular countries with internally displaced populations, in order to make recommendations to improve the situation in those countries and offer proposals for enhancing the international response to their basic needs. The Network complements the continuing advocacy efforts of my Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, and uses the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, formulated under his direction, as its overarching framework. Indeed, the mandate of my Representative is also represented on Network review missions.

95. Representatives of the Network visited Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Indonesia from October 2000 to August 2001. The review missions undertaken confirmed that there are serious gaps in the United Nations humanitarian response to the needs of internally displaced persons that have to be addressed, particularly with regard to protection. These gaps arise from the absence of clear agency responsibility in some sectors, and from what would appear to be insufficient efforts by some agencies in their designated areas. In many cases, the major constraint to an improved interagency response remains a lack of sustained funding. Work is under way to bridge the gaps that were identified. Over the long term, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will be strengthened to support the responses of operational agencies to the needs of the internally displaced. This will be done through the establishment of a small, inter-agency, non-operational Internally Displaced Persons Unit that will advise the Emergency Relief Coordinator

Delivering humanitarian services and dealing with underfunded emergencies

96. During the year under review, humanitarian assistance from the United Nations has reached a number of vulnerable populations, in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Liberia, Mongolia, Mozambique, the occupied Palestinian territory, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Great Lakes region in Africa, among others.

97. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is playing an increasingly important emergency role in over 35 countries. Its humanitarian action this past year included the immunization of more than 47 million children against polio on National Immunization Days, for which special ceasefires were negotiated in Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Sri Lanka. More than 7 million children have benefited from UNICEF education support, and its response in East Timor, Kosovo and the United Republic of Tanzania highlighted the importance of emergency education as important means of bringing normalcy to a traumatized population.

98. Of the 17 countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, 13 are experiencing conflict. UNICEF has numerous programmes in these countries, including peer education and awareness-raising activities targeting young people through mass media and non-formal education. UNICEF programmes and partnerships for the protection of children and women in emergencies have expanded during the year. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan, progress was made towards demobilizing child soldiers while, in Sierra Leone, 1,000 of a total 1,700 demobilized children were reunited with their families. United Nations peacekeeping missions have also been used as both channels and targets for education and awarenessraising on HIV/AIDS.

99. The World Health Organization (WHO) contributes to overall humanitarian coordination by informing all partners on the determinants of survival and health in emergencies, and works to put coordinated public health actions in place for all affected populations, including the forcibly displaced. The priorities remain needs assessment, immunization, improved nutrition, providing pharmaceuticals, controlling communicable as well as

noncommunicable diseases, reproductive health and mental health. WHO also supports inter-agency action for HIV/AIDS control in emergencies, for the elderly in humanitarian emergencies and for the health of humanitarian workers.

100. The presence and field operational ability of WHO can ensure optimal impact in coordinated public health management, collective learning and health sector accountability. To this end, WHO provides country-specific technical guidance, situation reports and epidemiological surveillance data to all those partners that by their action in health or related sectors can contribute to the common goal of reducing avoidable mortality and suffering. In October 2000, WHO organized an International Consultation on the Mental Health of Refugees and Displaced Populations in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations that endorsed a declaration of cooperation between operational agencies, Member States and academic and research institutions. WHO validated technical instruments for assessment and evaluation, and is organizing an international conference to examine how the response of local health-care systems to the needs of internally displaced persons can be improved.

101. As the food aid arm of the United Nations, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued to use food aid to save lives, alleviate hunger and enable poor people whose food supply is insecure to make investments to help themselves in the longer term. In response to emergencies in 2000, WFP delivered over 3.5 million tons of food, assisting 83 million people, including over 60 million people affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies. WFP continued to work with other United Nations entities to secure safe and unimpeded access to vulnerable populations and areas for the assessment, delivery, distribution and monitoring of food aid. WFP uses food aid to support livelihoods, reduce vulnerability to future food scarcities and support durable solutions, and strives to channel food through women in order to ensure that food aid meets the needs of families, particularly children. It seeks to provide 80 per cent of relief food directly to women, ensure full participation of women in decision-making groups, and facilitate equal access of women to resources, employment, markets and trade. WFP also works to understand the particular needs of food-insecure internally displaced people and help to ensure for them the same rights and freedoms as other people in their country, as well as addressing the food needs of refugees in a manner that builds selfreliance.

102. About 50 per cent of WFP food assistance in 2000 was targeted to vulnerable populations and groups affected by civil strife or conflicts in one of the many protracted emergencies plaguing Africa, Central Asia, the Balkans and Latin America. While in global terms WFP increased its food assistance to affected civilians by 3 per cent in 2000, it has experienced problems in some underfunded, "forgotten" emergencies, such as Angola, Somalia or the Great Lakes region. Timely contributions allowed the provision of humanitarian aid efficiently in a number of extremely complex and volatile situations. In some cases, however, resources were made available too late to avert or mitigate unfolding crises, or to avoid breaks in the food distribution chain, with the result that WFP had to resort to reducing the rations of affected populations.

103. The Global Information and Early Warning System of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a comprehensive international warning system for threats to crop and food supply conditions, continued, in the wake of dramatic increases in food emergencies, to alert the international community to imminent crop failures and food crises. During the period 1998-2000, virtually all regions were seriously affected by natural or man-made disasters. Using field and satellite data, the system monitors crop and food supply and demand conditions in all countries, identifies those where food shortages may be imminent and maintains continuous assessments of possible emergency food needs.

104. In 2000, FAO provided emergency agriculture and livelihood recovery assistance to people affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies in 41 countries. FAO distributed seeds and tools to vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, ex-combatants and women. In the Horn of Africa and in Mongolia, FAO supplied animal feed and veterinary drugs to safeguard the health of livestock, upon which the local rural populations rely heavily. In countries, such as Afghanistan and Tajikistan, that have undergone protracted periods of conflict, FAO implemented longer-term rehabilitation projects, including the development of private veterinary services, the establishment of seed multiplication schemes and the restoration of farming machinery. To enhance the sustainability of these efforts, FAO placed special emphasis on the technical training and capacity-building elements of these projects.

105. FAO plays a central coordination role in the agricultural sector. A comprehensive relief and rehabilitation agricultural programme was implemented in Kosovo where, owing primarily to the presence of the FAO Emergency Coordination Unit, rehabilitation activities were able to expand in scope as immediate food relief was scaled down, successfully linking the relief and recovery stages of humanitarian assistance.

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106. The United Nations Development Programme has continued to provide technical assistance through country offices, both to facilitate the reintegration of displaced populations and to rehabilitate crisis-affected communities through socio-economic initiatives. UNDP is introducing transitional recovery teams to strengthen the capacity of its country offices and resident coordinator system to support early recovery efforts and to advance effective transitions from situations of conflict and disaster.

107. UNDP also seeks to reduce demand for illicit arms by confronting the root causes of violence. It has collected and destroyed tens of thousands of weapons and encouraged authorities in countries emerging from crisis to destroy tons of ammunition and explosives used in conflict. In the past year, it achieved some success in Albania, the Republic of the Congo and El Salvador. In Albania, some 14,000 weapons were collected and destroyed, and 10,000 weapons were collected and destroyed in the Republic of the Congo.

108. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East provides education, health, relief and social services, and implements income-generation programmes aimed at over 4 million refugees. Funding has not kept pace with the rapidly growing demand for services in this area, however. On the basis of donor pledges so far, the Agency faces an estimated deficit of \$67 million against a budget of \$311 million approved by the General Assembly. The deficit seriously jeopardizes the quality and extent of the Agency's services.

109. During the past year the "oil-for-food" programme, established by the Security Council in 1996, and administered by the Office of the Iraq Programme, has continued to assist the Iraqi people in meeting their basic needs in the areas of food and nutrition, health, water and sanitation, agriculture and shelter. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1330 (2000) on 5 December 2000, 72 per cent of Iraqi oil revenue is now available for the humanitarian programme, instead of the 66 per cent available during earlier phases. The additional funds will address the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population. The Government of Iraq's delays in contracting humanitarian supplies and equipment are of great concern, as are the delays in submitting applications by contractors, and the decision to place a large number of contracts on hold by the Security Council sanctions committee.

110. The United Nations system, under the coordination of the United Nations Mine Action Service, has continued to address the threat of landmines in over 20 countries. Affected land is surveyed, marked, mapped and cleared, while awareness of the risks is raised within the communities concerned. Assistance to victims has focused on rehabilitation and reintegration. The United Nations has continued to mobilize resources to support these activities, and more than 30 countries now seek funding assistance through various United Nations mechanisms. It is estimated that, in 2000, international donors provided over \$200 million for mine action in addition to the resources committed by mine-affected States themselves. At the international level, considerable advancements have been made, including the development and dissemination of the International Mine Action Standards, the further deployment of the Information Management System for Mine Action, and work on the socio-economic impact of landmine contamination. While significant progress has been achieved in reducing the threat posed by landmines in several countries, the most severely affected States will require consistent levels of international support for a number of years to come.

111. Underfunding, access restrictions and staff security issues have seriously constrained the emergency response capacity of agencies during the year. Underfunding is an ongoing and critical limitation for humanitarian action in a number of countries. In the absence of immediate and realistic funding, emergency planning, preparedness and stockpiling can do little to accelerate the humanitarian response to a crisis.

112. The consolidated appeals process brings the United Nations humanitarian community together to develop common strategies for complex emergencies in the most acute crises, often characterized by political or economic failure in the State concerned. For 2001, consolidated appeals were issued for humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Maluku in Indonesia, the northern Caucasus in the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Somalia, south-eastern Europe, the Sudan, Tajikistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and West Africa.

113. The 2001 consolidated appeals sought \$2.8 billion to reach an estimated 44 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in countries affected by conflict. As at June 2001, less than a third of the requirements listed in the consolidated appeals had been met, even lower in percentage terms than pledges made to the 2000 consolidated appeals at the same time last year.

The challenge of protecting and assisting refugees

114. The year 2000 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). At this important milestone, UNHCR faces serious challenges. They include ensuring the availability and quality of asylum; revitalizing the refugee protection system; providing effective assistance to refugees; promoting durable solutions for refugees; and fostering partnerships in support of the international protection system and in pursuit of durable solutions.

115. The global population of concern to UNHCR decreased from 22.3 million at the start of 2000 to 21.1 million at the start of 2001. This population includes refugees, asylum seekers, returning refugees in the early stages of their reintegration, and internally displaced persons. Ongoing or renewed conflicts, coupled with stagnating peace processes, generated continuing outflows of refugees. Repeated violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement displaced an estimated 1.8 million people internally, and led over 100,000 people to flee, mostly to the Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Despite the signing in August 2000 of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, continued violence prompted 80,000 people to leave Burundi for the United Republic of Tanzania. In the first seven months of 2001, the arrival of some 880,000 Afghans in Pakistan made Pakistan host to the largest refugee population in the world, estimated at some 2 million people.

116. In September 2000, we witnessed the brutal killings of three UNHCR staff members in West Timor and one staff member in Guinea. To address the inextricably linked issues of refugee and staff security, UNHCR undertook a comprehensive review of its emergency preparedness and response structures, as well as the management of its security services, increasing its coordination with the office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

117. Access to safety and continued protection in host countries remain vital for the world's refugees. The quality of asylum has, however, deteriorated in a number of countries, including in several regions with traditionally generous asylum policies. This is a result of the economic and social difficulties in hosting large refugee populations, national security considerations and concerns about the use of asylum procedures by illegal immigrants and the trafficking and smuggling of persons.

118. In December 2000, after consultations with key partners, in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNHCR produced policy guidelines on the question of combatants and former combatants with particular reference to the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia and Zambia.

119. UNHCR has continued to monitor implementation of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, notably through involvement in national procedures for the determination of refugee status. When a State is not a party to international law regarding refugees, or has not established the relevant procedures, UNHCR carries out refugee status determinations under its mandate. Fifty years after the establishment of UNHCR, a major challenge still lies in persuading more States to accede to and comply with the Convention and Protocol. At the end of 2000, 140 States, including most recently Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago, had acceded to the instruments.

120. UNHCR has played a leading role in facilitating and coordinating voluntary repatriation, which includes providing assistance to returnees during reintegration and rehabilitation. In total, over 790,000 persons returned to their countries during 2000, including 290,000 returning to Afghanistan mostly from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, and 125,000 to Kosovo, from other parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

121. Apart from being an important protection tool, resettlement has increasingly become a mechanism for sharing responsibility and seeking durable solutions. The traditional resettlement countries continue each year to provide resettlement opportunities to some 30,000 refugees referred by UNHCR, usually from the Middle East and increasingly from Africa. In a welcome development over recent years, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Iceland, Ireland and Spain have joined the list of countries willing to provide resettlement opportunities.

122. Underfunding has also seriously affected UNHCR operations and, in some cases, led to a scaling-down of assistance. In Angola, for example, lack of funding curtailed the procurement of building materials for the completion of houses in camps ahead of the rainy season. In Afghanistan, unpredictable and insufficient funding undermined the ability of UNHCR to cope with repatriation rates that more than doubled in the past year, and to alleviate the suffering of some 500,000 internally displaced persons.

Natural disaster response: engaging developing countries and building capacities

123. Although natural disasters can occur anywhere, a number of factors such as poverty, food insecurity, wars, social strife, lack of community planning and environmental degradation make developing countries more vulnerable to their devastating impact. The United Nations has been working closely with Governments, at national and regional levels, to strengthen their preventive and response capacities in order to minimize the risks and impact of disasters.

124. In cooperation with the Governments of affected countries, the United Nations intensified its efforts to draw lessons from previous relief operations and to strengthen preventive strategies, including early warning mechanisms, at national and regional levels. In the Americas and the Caribbean regions, thanks to 25 years of efforts spearheaded by the Pan American Health Organization/WHO, most countries have made significant progress in the disaster field. They have developed country hazard maps, and have improved and expanded seismic monitoring networks and early warning systems. World Food Programme assistance to victims of natural disasters has increased steadily in recent years. Globally, one third of WFP food aid in 2000 was targeted to these vulnerable populations, marking a 20 per cent increase over the preceding year. UNDP cooperated with developing countries to mainstream disaster management within broader development strategies, and integrate disaster response preparedness initiatives into a framework of support for disaster reduction.

125. The Disaster Management Training Programme, managed by UNDP in collaboration with 26 partner United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, and international organizations, aims to provide training to capacity-building programmes. Country-level training activities under the Programme have been integrated into the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy in the southern Africa region. Other training activities have focused on countries of the Mekong River Commission, and have provided capacity-building support for individual countries at vital stages of longterm disaster management strategy in Central America.

126. The United Nations disaster assessment and coordination system, managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, has been building expertise in disaster-prone regions to coordinate international assistance in major disasters. The Military and Civil Defence Unit of the Office is conducting training to improve relationships and coordination between humanitarian actors and the military and civil defence resources that are employed in emergency response. It also coordinates international exercises when military and civil defence assets are used.

127. In partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is focusing on upgrading the humanitarian community's capacity to respond rapidly to the environmental consequences of natural disasters. Specifically, it has developed a global network of officially designated national focal points to serve as the conduit for accessing information and assistance. This continuously expanding global network currently includes representatives of more than 100 countries in all major regions.

128. Events in 2001 once again confirmed the need to plan effective disaster reduction measures in order to strike a better balance between, on the one hand, funds spent on intervention and relief and, on the other, resources which could be devoted to enhance prevention capacities. The first year of operation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has demonstrated that many countries and a large number of United Nations agencies and organizations, nongovernmental organizations, regional entities and representatives of civil society are willing to engage in broad efforts to promote a global culture of prevention. Building and strengthening effective early warning systems, and providing adequate education and training, as well as appropriate technology, are a few major areas where decisive action is required.

Chapter III

Cooperating for development

129. At the Millennium Summit, the international community resolved to wage war on poverty by launching a sustained campaign to make the right to development a reality for everyone. The effort to render globalization inclusive and equitable will pose a daunting challenge in the years ahead. If the international community is to meet its goals of development and poverty eradication, economic growth in developing economies must accelerate. At the same time, disparities in prevailing poverty rates both within and between countries will require targeted attention. We will need to work together, with adequate financial resources, to advance appropriate economic, social and financial policies and to bolster supporting institutions at the national and international levels.

Overview: extreme poverty

Cooperating effectively to eradicate poverty

130. Through its development cooperation efforts, the United Nations continues to dedicate substantial resources to supporting Governments in the implementation of their development objectives and priorities, including those articulated in the Millennium Declaration. The United Nations Strategy for Halving Extreme Poverty, endorsed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination in October 2000, recognizes the multidimensional nature of poverty. It incorporates a rights-based approach embodying principles of equity, non-discrimination (among ethnic, gender and geographical groups), accountability and participation into development and poverty reduction efforts. United Nations entities have cooperated in the formulation of national poverty reduction strategies in 60 countries and the writing of comprehensive poverty reduction strategy papers in others. The United Nations has carried out assessments of the social and economic effects of liberalization and globalization in 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, drafted in 81 countries and completed in 34, are the principal vehicles by means of which the United Nations is contributing to achieving the millennium development goals. To date, 71 countries have aligned their activities to those goals.

131. The United Nations Development Group, under the chairmanship of UNDP, continues to manage development activities. Since my last report, I am pleased to announce that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization have joined the United Nations Development Group.

132. Early in 2001, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) released its Rural Poverty Report 2001: The Challenges of Ending Rural Poverty, a comprehensive review of the causes and dynamics of rural poverty and effective approaches to poverty reduction. The report concludes that the poor themselves are the most potent agents of change. Evidence shows that poverty decreases faster when the poor participate actively in poverty reduction. Access to assets such as land, water, markets, information and technology enables the poor to take charge of their lives and allows them to escape poverty permanently. In 2000, IFAD approved 27 new rural development projects expected to benefit an estimated 13.6 million people. Those projects are implemented in collaboration with United Nations entities, bilateral and multilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and partners in the private sector. Joint operations based on complementary expertise and shared objectives have proved invaluable in achieving project goals and thus contributing to poverty eradication.

133. The United Nations has also reached out in other areas to help people lift themselves out of poverty. Through the use of vulnerability assessment and mapping tools, the World Food Programme has identified the food-insecure and marginalized, targeted its food aid and sought to ensure that each of its interventions involves investment in physical or human assets of lasting value. Meanwhile, UNDP has increased the availability of sustainable micro-finance services. Together with the United Nations Capital Development Fund, it operates the MicroStart programme. As at 31 March 2001, MicroStart had begun operations in 20 countries and 62 projects in 14 countries had received grants. Collectively, the 62 projects have increased the number of active clients served from a baseline of 67,026 to 192,881. The percentage of women clients served by the projects has increased from 57 per cent to 84 per cent.

134. No effort to reduce poverty can succeed without first ensuring the well-being of children and the enjoyment of their rights. Education, and especially education of girls, will contribute significantly to poverty reduction and achievement of the millennium development goals. At my request, UNICEF is leading an inter-agency task force to develop and implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative and United Nations staff in 50 countries are involved in collaborative activities related to girls' education. In 2000, WFP fed more than 12 million schoolchildren in 54 countries. This year, it will aim to increase funding for food aid, while also creating alliances to combine food with sanitation, health and education assistance.

135. Ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment are equally critical to the reduction of poverty. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has worked closely with partner agencies, the World Bank, civil society and private sector partners to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters between 1990 and 2015 through the Safe Motherhood Initiative. In 2000, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) focused on strengthening women's economic capacity, rights and bargaining power; promoting legal and regulatory changes that safeguard women's equal ownership and access to economic assets; enhancing Governments' capacities to manage economic transitions without marginalizing poor women; and supporting gender-responsive government budgets and macroeconomic policy frameworks.

136. At the intergovernmental level, the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, provided a broad mandate for a global campaign to eradicate poverty, with emphasis on the need for consolidation of the many ongoing initiatives. The Administrative Committee on Coordination has proposed that the Assembly discuss a framework for a global campaign to eradicate poverty. The campaign, a common advocacy effort, would underline the United Nations system-wide commitment to reducing poverty through concerted action in social, educational, nutritional, health and cultural dimensions, as well as in the promotion of gender equality and empowerment.

137. The twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in New York from 6 to 8 June 2001, provided a further vehicle for poverty reduction. The concluding Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium emphasizes that improvements in shelter and related urban infrastructure and services, as well as the sustainable development of human settlements, will contribute to eliminating poverty. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the pursuit of sustainable development are an integral part of the overall fight for the eradication of poverty. As poverty is a main obstacle in implementing the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration stresses the need to address, in an integrated manner, poverty, homelessness, unemployment, lack of basic services, exclusion of women and of children and marginalized groups. This will help achieve better, more liveable and inclusive human settlements. The Declaration also highlights the need to empower the poor and vulnerable by promoting greater security of tenure, including awareness of legal rights, and by promoting the upgrading of slums and regularization of squatter settlements, within the legal framework of each country. In particular, it re-emphasizes the aim of the Cities without Slums initiative to make a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

Mobilizing resources for development and poverty eradication

138. World leaders at the Millennium Summit resolved to make every effort to ensure the success of a unique intergovernmental process called financing for development. All the major international actors that deal with the interrelated issues of finance, trade and development have decided to search collectively for solutions to common problems. The preparatory meetings for the International Conference on Financing for Development, which is to be held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, include regional meetings organized by the five regional commissions in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and regional development banks. The Coordinating Secretariat for Financing for Development, established in 2000, is located in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and includes staff seconded from the World Bank, UNCTAD and UNDP. Staff from the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization have also worked actively with the coordinating secretariat. Last January I issued a report that offered a comprehensive set of 87 recommendations on all key aspects of financing for development. To further assist the preparatory process, I requested a High-level Panel on Financing for Development, chaired by the former President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, to produce a report that will help Governments refine their proposals for the Monterrey Conference.

139. The aim of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, held on 1 May 2001, was to promote coherence and cooperation in international development and, in particular, in poverty reduction. The meeting stressed the crucial need to ensure sustained economic growth, but noted that economic growth would not advance sustainable development in the absence of social justice. The meeting recognized that halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015 would require lasting debt relief to the poorest countries and stressed that a stable and well-managed international financial system was vital in the context of increasing globalization. Of equal importance was the recognition that protectionism in trade measures, in particular for the agricultural sector of developed countries, had prevented developing countries from benefiting fully from trade. Increased market access for developing countries was fundamental to ensuring poverty reduction. Participants welcomed efforts to open the new round of trade talks in 2001. These issues will also be discussed at the International Conference on Financing for Development.

Least developed countries: giving the poorest nations a chance

140. Of the 49 countries classified as least developed, 34 are in Africa, 13 are located in the region of Asia and the Pacific, one is in Western Asia and one is in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Those countries face formidable obstacles to their development, which include external debt problems, declining external resource flows, declining terms of trade, barriers to market access for their products, high population

growth, inadequate social development, lack of infrastructure and environmental constraints, including water shortages.

141. The progress of the least developed countries towards international targets for human and social development has been disappointingly slow. Special measures are therefore needed to lend momentum to their development efforts. The World Economic and Social Survey 2000, prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, reviewed a number of issues that least developed countries will need to address in order to achieve rapid and sustained growth that improves living standards. Focusing on domestic conditions, the Survey stressed the pivotal role of agriculture, the importance of human capital development, the need to improve technological capabilities and the prime role of institutions and institutional change in the development process.

142. Against this backdrop, I conducted the preparatory process for, and convened, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001. Preparing African countries for the Conference was of particular importance. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organized a high-level consultative meeting in November 2000. The meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and considered policies to ensure the progressive, sustainable integration of least developed countries into the global economy. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance considered the expert recommendations and adopted a common declaration calling for an increase in external resource flows, including official development assistance and foreign direct investment; expansion of current debt relief initiatives; wider preferential market access for products originating in least developed countries; and technical assistance to strengthen capacity to address supply-side constraints, including those relating to infrastructure and institutions.

143. The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted a political declaration, the Brussels Declaration, and the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. The Brussels Declaration reaffirms the collective responsibility of the international community to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity and to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people, as set out in the Millennium Declaration.

144. The Programme of Action provides specific goals and targets along with action-oriented commitments in seven critically important areas: fostering a peoplecentred policy framework; good governance at the national and international levels; building human and institutional capacities; building productive capacities to make globalization work for least developed countries; enhancing the role of trade in development; reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment; and mobilizing financial resources.

145. In both the Political Declaration and the Programme of Action, development partners agreed to increase market access for least developed countries; to provide adequate financial resources for the full implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative; and to contribute to the integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance. UNCTAD, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, the World Bank Group's Foreign Investment Advisory Service and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization also launched a technical assistance programme on foreign direct investment in a pilot group of countries. Drawing on the experience of United Nations field teams, UNCTAD will lead the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Battling HIV/AIDS

146. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a catastrophe of global proportions. It is destroying the social fabric in the most affected countries, reversing years of declining death rates and causing dramatic rises in mortality among young adults. By late 2000, over 36 million adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS, while nearly 22 million had died of the virus. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Epidemic Update of December 2000, 5.3 million new infections occurred last year and the number of children orphaned by AIDS had reached nearly 15 million.

147. Africa is the continent most profoundly affected by the spread of AIDS. In sub-Saharan Africa, where 25.3 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, the epidemic is now the leading cause of death. HIV prevalence rates among people aged 15 to 49 have reached or exceeded 10 per cent in 16 sub-Saharan countries. The virus is also spreading with alarming speed in other parts of the world. A rapid increase in the number of HIV infections in Eastern Europe and South and East Asia is also cause for serious concern.

148. Participants in the Millennium Summit resolved to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015; to provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS; and to help Africa build its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases. The United Nations has pursued

numerous initiatives to assist Governments in defeating the epidemic. The depth of the health crisis in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, has generated concerted action in numerous forums. African Governments, partners of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and private sector partners intensified efforts to mobilize additional resources under the auspices of the Framework for Action of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa.

149. The Economic Commission for Africa organized the African Development Forum in December 2000 around the theme “AIDS: the greatest leadership challenge”. The Forum called for leadership and action by all stakeholders to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa in the African Consensus and Plan of Action: Leadership to Overcome HIV/AIDS. The Plan of Action served as an important input for the Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held at Abuja in April 2001, where African leaders committed themselves to devoting at least 15 per cent of their annual budgets to improving health care systems.

150. In June 2001, the General Assembly held its twenty-sixth special session, on HIV/AIDS, to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects and to secure a global commitment to enhancing coordination and intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat it in a comprehensive manner. The special session constituted a culminating point in the efforts of the United Nations to combat HIV/AIDS. In that framework and with the assistance of UNAIDS and its co-sponsors, I called for a major new global campaign in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the OAU Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. The Plan of Action adopted at the Summit is intended to translate into concrete initiatives the commitments made by African leaders to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for prevention, care and treatment of the diseases and to develop strategies to mitigate the impact of the epidemic on Africa’s socio-economic development. I also proposed the establishment of a Global AIDS and Health Fund in order to mobilize the \$7 to \$10 billion necessary to appropriately address the AIDS epidemic.

151. In order to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system, I also established a High-level Inter-Agency Task Force on HIV/AIDS, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and composed of all relevant funds, programmes and agencies. System-wide efforts to address the various aspects of the HIV/AIDS crisis continue.

Social Development

152. Social objectives are integral to the struggle against poverty. The United Nations is continuing, through its own operational activities and through partnerships and networks, to promote improved access to basic social services and healthcare, to advance gender equality, to safeguard respect for human rights, to facilitate good governance, to expand access to information and communication technologies, to combat the scourge of illegal drugs and to support data collection and analyses on a wide range of policy issues.

Basic social services

153. The Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, chaired by UNFPA, has strengthened the United Nations system’s capacity to deliver coordinated assistance, including policies, plans and programmes at the national and regional levels. In October 2000, the Task Force completed new or revised Guidelines for the United Nations Resident Coordinator System on basic education, maternal mortality, primary health care and HIV/AIDS.

Health

154. Global immunization coverage (the major childhood diseases covered are measles, poliomyelitis, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus and tuberculosis) stands at 74 per cent, although many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as those in conflict, report coverage rates far below 50 per cent. The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization is playing a critical role in improving coverage. In 2000, only 2,800 cases of polio were confirmed, as compared with 7,100 cases in 1999. National immunization days, typically organized in partnership with UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, remain vital to improved coverage. In 2000, a record 550 million children under five years of age were immunized during intensified national immunization days in 82 countries. For example, in India, 152 million children were vaccinated in three days, and across West and Central Africa 76 million children were immunized in 17 countries. Within Africa, the Roll Back Malaria initiative, led by WHO, UNDP, the World Bank and UNICEF, emphasizes partnerships with all stakeholders, including Governments of countries where the disease is endemic, donor Governments, the private sector and civil society, in malaria prevention and control.

Gender and population

155. The new biennial report of UNIFEM, *Progress of the World's Women 2000*, offers revealing insights into advances and challenges in women's economic, social and political status and rights. *Progress 2000* documents the advances many countries have made on behalf of women and also examines remaining social, economic and political gaps. The report found that, during the last decade, only eight countries had successfully met global agreements to achieve both gender equality in secondary education enrolment and at least a 30 per cent share for women of seats in parliament. It strongly recommends the adoption of a globally agreed goal specific to women's paid employment, such as raising women's share of administrative and managerial positions.

156. Gender inequality has direct consequences for women's health, education and social and economic participation. At its twenty-first special session, in 1999, at which it reviewed the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly reconfirmed gender equality and women's empowerment as central goals of the Programme of Action and recommended a number of key initiatives such as zero tolerance for all forms of violence, including rape, incest, sexual violence and sex trafficking, against women and children. This entails developing an integrated approach that addresses the need for widespread social, cultural and economic change, in addition to legal reforms, and the close monitoring of the gender-differentiated impact of the globalization of the economy and the privatization of basic social services, in particular reproductive health.

157. In 2000, the UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women continued to serve as the basis for learning about gender-based violence and support for initiatives aimed at ending such violence. UNIFEM funded 17 new Trust Fund projects addressing a variety of issues, including addressing "honour killings" in Jordan, building local capacity to protect women from trafficking and domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova, training human rights lawyers on domestic violence issues in Peru and educating the public and sensitizing law enforcement agents about domestic violence laws in the United Republic of Tanzania.

158. In March 2000, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing. Introduced by the Committee on Housing Rights and Evictions, a recipient of UNIFEM funding, the resolution constitutes a milestone in recognizing the gender dimensions of economic, social and cultural rights, drawing connections between women's property ownership, housing and inheritance rights.

159. The United Nations Development Programme worked in more than 100 countries to address issues of gender equality and empowerment. It facilitated dialogue between Governments and civil society stakeholders on gender issues, drew up action plans addressing gender equality, and established networks of gender focal points in Government and within the wider community of national stakeholders. It also helped to augment national capacities for data collection and analysis, mainly to facilitate national reporting on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Youth employment

160. Social integration is a fundamental dynamic of social development. It continues to evolve under the influence of demographic change, most noticeably in changing family structures and the ageing of populations. In my report to the Millennium Assembly, I highlighted the urgency of finding decent work for the more than 70 million young women and men actively but unsuccessfully seeking employment, as well as for the many others underemployed in the informal economy. The Member States, in the Millennium Declaration, accepted the challenge of youth employment when they resolved to "develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work".

161. As a first step in meeting that challenge, I have, together with the heads of the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, convened a highlevel network — drawing on the experience and creativity of private industry and civil society — on youth unemployment and economic policy. The network will formulate a set of recommendations on youth employment directed at world leaders, disseminate information on good practices, and identify a series of collaborative youth employment initiatives for implementation with partners.

162. "Empowering Youth for Action" was the theme of the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations, held at Dakar in August 2001. Pursuant to the General Assembly's decision to proclaim 12 August International Youth Day, Member States and youth organizations worldwide recognized the day as an opportunity to strengthen youth involvement in development activities.

Ageing

163. Ageing remains one of the most complex social development issues confronting countries today. The World Ageing Situation 2001 questions conventional wisdom that ageing is a problem and offers fresh approaches to the issue. The Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held at Madrid in April 2002, will offer an opportunity to adopt a revised version of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, originally adopted in 1982, focusing on humanitarian and developmental aspects of ageing, aligned with modern, socio-cultural, economic and demographic realities.

People with disabilities

164. Promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and ensuring respect for their rights and full participation in all spheres of social life also remains a priority. In 2001, the Secretariat supported an initiative to develop an effective policy framework and programme interventions for children and young adults with disabilities in Latin America in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on children, to be held from 19 to 21 September 2001. Through the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, it has also sponsored activities of the African Decade of Disabled People (2000-2009), an innovative partnership between Governments and the nongovernmental community to bring disability to the forefront of Africa's development agenda.

The promotion of human rights and good governance

165. Rights-based programming underpins much of the operational activity undertaken by the United Nations. Last year, UNDP supported the development of national human rights action plans, invested in civic education and awareness-raising campaigns, and established and strengthened ombudsman offices and national human rights institutions. In several countries, UNDP also carried out a range of activities to bolster democratic governance. For example, support was made available to 38 parliaments, 34 justice systems and 21 electoral systems in 2000. A \$6 million global initiative funded by the Government of Belgium was launched to strengthen parliaments, while a global network of 350 civil society organizations was established to promote judicial reform. Public sector management programmes in 78 countries resulted in civil service reform, national action to tackle corruption and promote transparency, and the adoption by some Governments of results-based management to advance public sector efficiency and accountability. Decentralization programmes involving capacitybuilding, resource mobilization, service delivery and community empowerment were ongoing in 37 countries.

Reduction of the demand for drugs

166. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) continues to lead the United Nations system in supporting government efforts to combat the scourge of illegal drug abuse. To that end, the Programme has organized the Global Youth Network against Drug Abuse and assisted Governments and nongovernmental organizations in involving young people in policy-making and programme activities. The UNDCP Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse has assisted countries in Africa and Asia to collect and analyse data, while the joint UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse has supported community-level prevention in Belarus, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Access to information and communication technologies

167. Information and communication technology is an important instrument for reaping the potential benefits of globalization. In the past year, the United Nations forged important partnerships to bridge the "digital divide" and harness the power of technology to promote development. I will launch, on 14 September 2001, the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, which resulted from the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in July 2000 (resolution 2000/29). The Task Force, created for an initial period of three years, consists of representatives of 18 countries, 8 private corporations, 6 multilateral organizations (International Telecommunication Union, United Nations, UNDP, UNESCO, World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Bank) and 4 nongovernmental organizations. The principal mission of the Task Force is to harness the power of information and communication technologies for advancing the millennium development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty. It should achieve this by acting as an effective and useful facilitator, catalyst and accelerator, a global forum and a means to raise awareness and mobilize resources.

168. UNDP has been actively involved in a number of public and private multisectoral initiatives to focus attention on the issues, undertake advocacy and provide mechanisms for follow-up at the country level. It has

also, with the World Bank, provided for the secretariat of the Digital Opportunity Task Force, or DOT Force, which was set up in the wake of the meeting of the Group of Eight summit, held at Okinawa in July 2000. The final report of the DOT Force, *Digital Opportunities for All: Meeting the Challenge*, with a nine-point action plan, was fully endorsed by the G-8 leaders in their final communiqué at Genoa in July 2001. UNDP has also endeavoured to strengthen the voice of developing countries by means of a multisectoral task force which is a partnership between G-8 countries, developing countries, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. To support the work of the DOT Force, UNDP, in collaboration with the Markle Foundation and Accenture, also completed the first phase of the Digital Opportunity Initiative in July 2001, which makes the case for information and communication technology for development and will continue to assist developing countries in preparing national e-strategies. As also announced at Okinawa, and completed in July 2001, the United Nations Volunteers, UNDP, the United States Peace Corps and Cisco Systems deployed a programme to provide Internet training in 24 least developed countries worldwide. UNDP will work with other United Nations entities, Governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector in implementing the DOT Force Plan of Action.

Data collection and analysis for advocacy and policy

169. The United Nations produces a wealth of reports and analyses that enable Governments to track the progress made in different aspects of social development. That data collection provides an excellent basis for advocacy and policy development. In the area of population, for example, UNFPA and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs have collaborated to enhance national capacities for statistical collection and analysis, especially in relation to conducting population censuses and surveys. This is fundamental to the construction of population-based indicators with a view to monitoring progress towards the goals set by global conferences.

170. With support from UNDP, more than 56 national human development reports are in various stages of preparation. Long-term studies were completed in Cameroon, Namibia and Sierra Leone, and another 30 such exercises are under way elsewhere. Courses on human development were introduced in 11 universities across Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Advocacy has begun to produce new policies and programmes across all regions. Examples of recent progress include the participation of members of the think tank on human development in the formulation of the new National Charter in Bahrain; the Government of Brazil's adoption of the Human Development Index as a prerequisite to all federal resource allocation for social development; the use of the municipal Human Development Index in Bulgaria to focus public assistance; and the amendment of the rules and regulations of the Social Fund for Development in Egypt to incorporate best practices on poverty reduction.

Sustainable development

171. Nearly a decade has passed since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was convened in 1992. Since then, Governments and civil society groups have brought tremendous energy to the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference. Governments in both developed and developing countries have taken legislative and regulatory action to strengthen national policy frameworks for sustainable development. Around the world, numerous communities have implemented local versions of Agenda 21 and a growing number of companies have adopted sustainable development as an essential element of corporate stewardship.

172. Within the United Nations system, diverse initiatives in support of Member States' efforts to pursue country-specific sustainable development plans have been launched through project financing, policy advice and technical assistance aimed at strengthening human, institutional, technical and productive capacities of developing countries.

173. Notwithstanding those efforts, the challenge of achieving sustainability remains. The World Resources Report 2000-01: *People and Ecosystems, the Fraying Web of Life*, produced in September 2000 by the World Resources Institute, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, concluded that increased resource demands continued to cause global ecosystems to deteriorate, with potentially devastating results for human development and the welfare of all species. The report was based largely on information collected in the preparatory phase of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment from 1998-2000, a major international collaborative effort to map the health of our planet, generate new information, develop methodological tools, inform public policies and increase public awareness. It led to the launching of a Poverty-Environment Initiative designed to identify practical policy measures that advance the twin goals of poverty reduction and environmental regeneration. The World Energy Assessment, cosponsored by UNDP, the

Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Energy Council, was also launched in the period under review.

174. An important landmark will be the convening, at the instigation of the General Assembly, of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002. The Summit is intended to reinvigorate global commitment to sustainable development by identifying accomplishments and constraints as well as new challenges and opportunities in the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The regional commissions and UNEP have been organizing regional meetings with this in mind.

175. In order to successfully address new and emerging challenges in promoting sustainable development, the international community needs strong, focused and effective institutional arrangements that ensure coherent and integrated international environmental policy. To that end, and in line with the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the First Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held at Malmö, Sweden, in May 2000, and the decisions of the Governing Council of UNEP, a review of international environmental governance, involving Governments, financial institutions, civil society and experts, is under way. It will take full account of the environmental components of the Millennium Declaration and provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

176. International cooperation for sustainable development at the intergovernmental level continues under the auspices of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which held its ninth session in April 2001. The Commission placed its policy review in a broad development context and highlighted the linkages between atmospheric issues and other problems, including unsustainable consumption and production patterns, rapid urbanization and the interdependence of energy, transport and the atmosphere. In its deliberations on energy, the Commission emphasized that meeting the energy challenge would require financial resources, technology transfer and commitment to innovative ways of applying energy-efficient, environmentally sound and cost-effective technologies to all sectors of the economy.

177. The first Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents was held in November 2000. Negotiations were initiated for a new legally binding instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the "Aarhus Convention") for possible adoption at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe, to be held at Kiev in 2003. The Aarhus Convention, negotiated under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe, was adopted in June 1998 and enters into force in October 2001.

178. During the year under review, the Commission on Sustainable Development successfully concluded the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. By its resolution 2000/35, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish the United Nations Forum on Forests to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests at the national, regional and global levels. In June 2001, the Forum held its first substantive session to develop a plan of action and to initiate the Forum's work by means of a collaborative partnership on forests.

179. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements is essential in the protection of our common environment. The adoption and signing at Stockholm in May 2001 of the Convention for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, with a view to minimizing and eliminating some of the most toxic chemicals, was an important milestone. Environmental experts have hailed the Convention, which sets out control measures covering the production, trade, disposal and use of such pollutants, as an historic step towards making the planet safer.

180. In the field of climate change, summaries of the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were released early in 2001. The Panel concluded that there was strong evidence that most of the warming over the past 50 years was attributable to human activities and projected a global average temperature rise of 1.4° to 5.8°C over the next 100 years. To alleviate the problem, efforts by the United Nations system to promote renewable energy technologies and facilitate the required reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases continue, as do attempts to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by 2002.

181. Efforts towards sustainable development also continue at the regional level. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific organized a Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development at Kitakyushu, Japan, in September 2000. The Conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration and a Regional Action Programme 2001-2005, which commit regional Governments to pursuing common priorities to promote

sustainable development. The Conference also launched the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, the first attempt at twinning cities of developing countries with the City of Kitakyushu to improve urban environmental management.

182. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is working with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP in assisting countries in the region to prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Participants in the preparatory meetings reported a high level of adherence to international environmental agreements, both those approved at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and those negotiated subsequently.

183. Most countries of the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) have formulated national environmental strategies and action plans aimed at integrating environmental concerns into economic development plans and setting priorities to achieve sustainable development. ESCWA is also emphasizing assessment and identification of options to facilitate sustainable approaches to energy resource management and the development of mechanisms to support regional and subregional cooperation. By October 2000, 11 ESCWA member States had agreed to join the mechanism and had nominated concerned national authorities to represent them as national focal points. The region is facing a critical situation with respect to water resources. It must work to increase the efficiency of water use and water management, including water recycling and desalination; to induce more regional cooperation, especially in the management of shared water resources; and to utilize its abundant energy resources in increasing the availability of water resources and protecting our common environment.

Africa

184. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States devoted special attention to Africa and called on the United Nations system to play a catalytic role in mobilizing resources in the cause of African development.

185. The recommendations contained in my report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318) remain an important point of departure. The implementation of those recommendations has been entrusted to the General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group, whose progress report of November 2000 contained a concise overview of the progress in and constraints to their implementation. The Working Group met again in May and June 2001 to focus on conflict prevention, postconflict peace-building and education.

186. At the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, in July 2001, the New African Initiative adopted by the Organization of African Unity at Lusaka, also in July, was the principal focus of attention. The Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Council at the conclusion of the session gives clear direction to the United Nations system to rally behind the unified framework that African leaders have launched. Through the Declaration, the Council established itself as the main global forum for mobilizing the support of the United Nations system and the international community at large for the Initiative and the newly created African Union. I am pleased at the high-level participation of Africa and the clear demonstration of its intention to take control of its own destiny.

187. The Economic and Social Council placed particular emphasis on the link between peace and development and the need to ensure that the momentum towards democracy and economic reform was sustained. It called for effective international support for Africa, including in addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis, improving market access and providing deeper and broader debt relief and increased official development assistance. The United Nations system will have to play a central role in mobilizing international support in order to achieve those objectives.

188. In its Ministerial Declaration, the Council noted in particular the call made by African heads of State for a special session of the General Assembly to consider how best to support the New African Initiative and requested me to explore the feasibility of creating a subregional coordinating capacity for peace-building and an ad hoc advisory group of the Economic and Social Council on countries emerging from conflict.

189. While international support remains essential, ultimately African countries themselves are best placed to overcome the pressing challenges that confront the continent, and it is encouraging to see the renewed determination of Africans to do so. The full engagement of the Economic Commission for Africa is especially important. The Compact for African Recovery, presented to ECA at its thirty-fourth session, held at Algiers in May 2001, represents an important component of the ECA response to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

190. The priority areas of the Compact include promoting good governance, peace and security; tackling diseases that accentuate poverty; developing human resources; promoting infrastructure expansion; advancing regional integration; enhancing Africa's competitiveness through the utilization of information and communication technologies and economic diversification; sustaining high economic growth rates; expanding market access and trade; and ensuring external resource flows, including debt relief.

191. United Nations entities remain deeply involved in a wide range of African development issues. In 2000, WFP assisted almost 35 million people with food deliveries, 51 per cent of them women, in sub-Saharan Africa. Its operations in that area now include 76 development projects, 20 long-term relief and recovery operations and 47 emergency operations.

192. UNDP continues to promote participatory approaches to poverty reduction through partnership arrangements with civil society organizations. Moreover, in countries in special development situations, such as Angola and Burundi, UNDP has played an important role in ensuring that humanitarian concerns do not eclipse broader dialogue on poverty eradication or environmental protection. Together with other partners, UNDP has also invested in democratic governance in Africa by supporting electoral processes and parliaments.

193. UNIFEM has implemented a series of strategies to address the multidimensional nature of poverty in Africa. It has emphasized the importance of building the capacity of small-scale businesses owned by women. Linking women producers and entrepreneurs with external markets, the initiative also supports women's participation in non-traditional fields and assists with microfinance projects. The UNIFEM project Promoting Women's Rights to Economic Security in countries of the Southern African Development Community safeguards women's economic security by strengthening their capacity and skills at the local, national and regional levels.

194. A number of United Nations entities, including UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UNESCO, have worked to provide sexual and reproductive health information, counselling and services to youth and adolescents in Africa. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and in cooperation with Pathfinder International, UNFPA has created the African Youth Alliance to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS infection among adolescents. Support from the United Nations Foundation has permitted UNFPA to support similar programmes in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, and Senegal. UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and UNIFEM are working together to build on the success of UNIFEM in promoting alternative rites of passage to combat female genital mutilation. To date, 16 countries have outlawed the practice.

195. Child survival and improvements in child and maternal health remain a priority in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa continued to receive the greatest share of UNICEF programme expenditure, which in 2000 amounted to \$391 million, or 38 per cent of total spending. This represents an increase of 15 per cent over 1999 expenditure. Under its Bamako Initiative, UNICEF is contributing to the revitalization of health systems and community participation. The Initiative has improved the quality of services and access to basic health care in 7,000 health centres in 13 countries. The UNICEF African Girls' Education Initiative, implemented in partnership with the Government of Norway, has afforded an increasing number of African girls in, for example, Cameroon, Chad, Eritrea, Senegal and Uganda the opportunity to attend school and receive an improved basic education. The Initiative will expand its support to 31 African countries, including some torn by civil strife.

Chapter IV

The international legal order and human rights

Human rights development

196. Bridging the gap between human rights norms and their implementation continues to pose a substantial challenge for the United Nations. The Commission on Human Rights plays a crucial role in meeting this challenge by providing a forum for discussion, in which more than 60 heads of State or Government, Ministers for Foreign Affairs or other Ministers participated in the past year. In addition to the 53 States members of the Commission, almost all the remaining Members of the United Nations now attend meetings of the Commission as observers. Nearly all the United Nations agencies, 10 intergovernmental organizations and about 250 nongovernmental organizations participated in the Commission's fifty-seventh session. Forty-two special rapporteurs, independent experts, and chairpersons of bodies and groups submitted country and thematic reports. Those reports painted a bleak picture of the status of human rights in the world today.

197. Some progress was made during the Commission's fifty-seventh session, but the task of achieving universal respect for human rights remains daunting. Eighty-two resolutions, 19 decisions, and three statements by the Chairperson were adopted, addressing the human rights situation in more than 20 countries and territories,

they focused on numerous themes such as summary executions, torture, religious intolerance, violence against women, the right to development, and human rights and extreme poverty. This year, the Commission addressed new topics and made particular advances in the protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples by appointing a special rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. The Special Rapporteur will gather, request, receive and exchange information and communications from all relevant sources, including Governments, indigenous people themselves, and their communities and organizations, on violations of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. This is a particularly appropriate step in view of the General Assembly's emphasis on enhancing the rights of vulnerable groups, as expressed in the Millennium Declaration, and the designation of the period 1994-2004 as the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. To stress the specific human rights dimension of indigenous matters, I designated the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as the lead agency for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, established by the Economic and Social Council in July 2000. In addition to its work on indigenous issues, the Commission adopted a timely resolution concerning access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS. It also requested the appointment of an independent expert to examine the question of a draft optional protocol, under which individual communications could be considered, to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and established a working group to draft a legally binding instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

198. In addressing the Commission on 30 March 2001, I gave my full support to the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her efforts to ensure the success of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001. Racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance are scourges that must be fought and defeated. The High Commissioner, acting in her capacity as the Secretary-General of the Conference, and her Office have organized five regional seminars of experts, at Geneva, Warsaw, Bangkok, Addis Ababa and Santiago. Four regional intergovernmental conferences have already been held at Strasbourg, Santiago, Dakar and Tehran. The Durban Conference has great potential to give people around the world both help and hope in the fight against discrimination.

199. During the Millennium Summit, I renewed my call upon States to ratify the six core United Nations human rights treaties, and many have done so. Protecting the vulnerable is a crucial task. One significant development is the entry into force, on 22 December 2000, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Protocol contains a communications procedure that allows submission of claims of violations of rights protected under the Convention, and an inquiry procedure enabling the Committee to initiate inquiries into situations of grave or systematic violations of women's rights. Progress has also been made with regard to the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Both protocols were adopted by the General Assembly on 25 May 2000. The Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict has already been signed by 80 States, with four States parties. The Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography has been signed by 73 States, three of which have already become parties. Each Protocol requires ratification or accession by 10 States parties to become enforceable.

200. The six United Nations treaty bodies continue to provide a framework for national action to enhance the protection of human rights. New general recommendations have been adopted by various committees addressing issues such as the right to education, HIV/AIDS, equality and the gender-related dimension of racial discrimination.

201. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued its technical cooperation efforts to assist States in the protection and promotion of human rights. At present, the Office is responding directly to requests from some 60 Member States to create or strengthen national human rights capacities and infrastructures. As the system-wide focal point for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and in an effort to continue mainstreaming human rights, the Office has strengthened its partnerships with other parts of the system. Creating new linkages between human rights policy expertise and field-level development, peacekeeping and humanitarian capacities has proved useful in these endeavours. In response, 2001 has seen more rights-based development programmes, more rights-sensitive humanitarian operations, and more rights-attentive peacekeeping operations.

202. The dissemination of information on human rights issues has improved in 2000-2001. The Office's strategy for securing, processing and sharing human rights information has involved human rights research activities, reference and documentation services, publications and web-publishing efforts. The web site of the

Office offers comprehensive information on the United Nations human rights programme and activities and gives access to essential human rights documents. In June 2001, the web site received a record high of 5 million hits.

The International Criminal Court

203. The Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court held its sixth session in November/December 2000, and its seventh session in February/March 2001. The eighth session will be held from 24 September to 5 October 2001. At its sixth session, the Preparatory Commission considered issues relating to the financing, privileges and immunities, and relationship agreements of the Court, as well as the crime of aggression. At its seventh session, it considered the rules of procedure of the Assembly of States Parties. Substantial progress was made on all five of these items. At its eighth session, the Preparatory Commission will consider the budget of the Court for its first financial year and the basic principles of a headquarters agreement between the Court and the host country.

204. A total of 139 States had signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by 31 December 2000, the last day on which it was open for signature. To date, 37 States have ratified the statute. These figures are encouraging and there is no doubt that the statute will enter into force soon. The adoption of the Rome Statute has opened a new chapter in international law. A comprehensive legal and institutional regime now exists in the field of international criminal justice, something that will certainly affect the conduct of States but, more importantly, will guide and shape the behaviour of individuals. Much remains to be done to operationalize that regime and make it effective. I appeal to States not only to establish their consent to be bound by the Rome Statute as soon as possible but also to support, by every means, the important cause of the Court.

205. Some Governments and their peoples remain wary of this enterprise. I find it hard to believe, though, that their scepticism flows from any disagreement with the importance of compliance with international humanitarian law, much less from any principled opposition to the notion that those who are guilty of the most atrocious crimes known to humanity should be tried and punished. I would encourage those who remain unconvinced by the project of a permanent International Criminal Court to reflect on the central principle of Nürnb erg and Tokyo, namely, that those who commit or authorize war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are individually accountable for their crimes, and the community of States can and should bring them to justice.

The International Tribunals International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

206. During the past year, there were several major developments in the work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. These developments should significantly enhance the Tribunal's ability to discharge its mandate to prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, and to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in the region, while enabling the Tribunal to complete its work by 2008.

207. Major reforms enhancing the efficiency of the Tribunal's operations and expediting the commencement and completion of trials have been made. In November 2000, the Security Council amended the statute of the International Tribunal to provide for a pool of 27 judges to help its 16 permanent judges to conduct and complete trials as the need arises. In a major demonstration of support for the Tribunal, 34 States in all regions of the world responded to my invitation for nominations and, among them, proposed no fewer than 64 candidates for election. In June 2001, the General Assembly elected 27 of those candidates to the Tribunal. Other significant reforms have included an increase in the capacity of the Tribunal's Appeals Chamber, and a series of amendments to the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the most noteworthy of which is that barring "interlocutory" or provisional appeals.

208. As regards States' cooperation with the Tribunal, the most notable event over the past year was the apprehension and subsequent transfer to the Tribunal of the former President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, on 28 June 2001. This marked the beginning of a new era in the development of international criminal justice. The surrender, arraignment and forthcoming trial of an accused person who was, until very recently, a head of State, represents a major victory in the international community's fight against impunity and a decisive step towards a world governed in accordance with the rule of law. The voluntary surrender of Biljana Plavsic and the transfer of Momcilo Krajišnik, two former high-ranking political figures, also represented major developments in the Tribunal's relations with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

209. There are currently 39 accused persons held in the United Nations Detention Unit. Four trials, involving a total of 10 accused, are under way before the Tribunal's three Trial Chambers, and 10 other cases, involving a

total of 16 accused, are in the pretrial phase. Over the past year, the Tribunal has tried and sentenced five individuals. Each of the five has appealed against the sentence. One other accused has pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing. The Tribunal transferred three convicted persons to Member States to serve their sentences: two to Finland and one to Germany.

210. Following the electoral defeat of Mr. Milosevic, the Prosecutor reopened the Tribunal's field office in Belgrade in order to help investigators to resume their work in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, investigators completed work on exhumations in Kosovo that resulted in the discovery of the remains of some 4,000 individuals. The Prosecutor also commenced investigations into allegations against ethnic Albanian rebels in southern Serbia, the Kosovo Liberation Army, and groups involved in hostilities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Over the past year, the Prosecutor has personally dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort to encouraging Governments to arrest persons indicted by the Tribunal and to transfer them to The Hague to stand trial. It is gratifying that those efforts are now beginning to bear fruit.

International Tribunal for Rwanda

211. The Tribunal made significant advances during the past year. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which lay down a framework for the admission of statements from other trials and impose stricter judicial controls on motions, will all help to speed up court proceedings. A generally more vigorous approach to the Tribunal's caseload has begun to yield positive results. The Appeals Chamber handed down final judgements in three cases, bringing the total number of cases disposed of on appeal to five. Meanwhile, Trial Chamber I completed the trial of one accused, who received the Tribunal's first acquittal.

212. Following the implementation of a "twin-track" approach, whereby each of the three Trial Chambers simultaneously conducts two trials, a total of 15 accused persons are now on trial before the Tribunal in five cases. One of these cases, known as the Butare case, is the largest to date at the Tribunal, involving no less than six accused. Another trial, involving two accused, is scheduled to commence in September 2001, at which time the number of persons on trial will total 17. As these figures show, the Tribunal is discharging its mandate as effectively as possible given current resources.

213. At the same time, four accused were arrested and transferred to the Tribunal's detention facility in Arusha. They were Samuel Musabyimana, a former Bishop of the Anglican Church in Rwanda; Simeon Nshamihigo, a defence investigator; and two former mayors, Sylvestre Gabumbitsi and Jean Mpambara.

214. In November 2000, the Security Council decided to increase the number of judges in the Appeals Chambers of the two International Tribunals. Following the amendment of the Tribunal's statute, the General Assembly elected two new judges to the Tribunal on 24 April 2001, and the President of the Tribunal transferred two existing judges to the Appeals Chambers on 1 June 2001. It is hoped that this increase in the judicial capacity of both International Tribunals will expedite the disposition of the increasing numbers of appeals.

215. Regrettably, the first President of the Tribunal and the Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II, Judge Laïty Kama of Senegal, passed away in Nairobi on 6 May 2001. Judge Kama was a man of the highest professional competence who was devoted to the cause of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights, and who fulfilled his duties with dignity and integrity. On 31 May 2001, I appointed Judge Andréia Vaz, President of the Court of Cassation of Senegal, to fill the position.

Enhancing the rule of law

216. Over the past year, the Organization has taken further decisive steps towards strengthening respect for the rule of law in international affairs. In August 2000, the Security Council charged me with negotiating and concluding an agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone for the establishment of an independent special court. It will try persons bearing the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law. At my request, the Office of Legal Affairs prepared a draft Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the Establishment of the Special Court, and a draft statute for the Court, and negotiated both of these instruments with the Government of Sierra Leone. The members of the Security Council have given their agreement, in principle, to their contents.

217. At my request, the Office of Legal Affairs has also initiated a process of informal consultations with a group of interested States on practical arrangements for the implementation of the Agreement, including establishing a management committee, budget estimates and Court premises. In view of the response to my appeal for voluntary contributions in funds, personnel and equipment, initial arrangements for the operation of the Court have been modified, to align them with the level of available funding. Once the resources are sufficient

to fund the establishment and operation of the Court, the Agreement will be concluded with the Government of Sierra Leone, and the legal framework needed for the Court to begin to function will be established.

218. At the Millennium Summit, I encouraged States to sign, ratify and accede to treaties of which I am the depositary. Specific attention was paid to a core group of 25 multilateral treaties that represent the objectives of the Charter and reflect the Organization's values. I was deeply gratified by the success of this initiative. During the Summit, no less than 84 States performed a total of 274 treaty actions — 187 signatures and 87 ratifications and accessions — in respect of 40 of the more than 500 treaties for which I act as the depositary. Particularly satisfying were the 12 signatures and four ratifications of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the seven ratifications of, or accessions to, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. In view of this positive response, I have decided to organize a similar event, albeit on a somewhat smaller scale, during the special session of the General Assembly on children and the general debate at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. This event will focus on 23 multilateral treaties relating to the advancement of the rights of women.

219. Many States fail to sign or ratify treaties, not because of any lack of political will, but because of a simple shortage of technical expertise when it comes to the implementation of treaty provisions. Consequently, the Office of Legal Affairs is preparing a handbook that will provide guidance to Governments on the execution of treaty formalities. This practical guide will be issued in the six official languages of the Organization and will be supplemented by training sessions for government lawyers, organized with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. It is not enough simply for States to establish their consent to be bound by treaties, however, States must also implement and respect the obligations which those treaties impose.

220. One of the central objectives of the United Nations is to assist Governments in establishing the necessary conditions for compliance with treaty commitments. The Organization already undertakes a broad range of actions to this end, helping Governments to draft national implementing legislation and supporting training programmes for those involved in its application. Over the past year, the Office of Legal Affairs has worked to increase awareness of the various forms of technical assistance that the Organization can provide to Governments in this respect.

221. That the law should be accessible to those whom it is meant to guide is a central precept of the rule of law. Mindful of this, the Office of Legal Affairs is working to make the entire corpus of modern international treaty law directly available to legal practitioners, diplomats, non-governmental organizations and ordinary citizens by publishing on the Internet the complete texts of more than 50,000 treaties that were registered with the Secretariat prior to May 1998. Ordinary citizens, civil society and corporations should thus be in a better position to ensure that they are accorded their rights and benefits and that they, in turn, respect their duties, under international law.

Legal affairs

222. The past year was particularly productive for the International Law Commission. The Commission adopted a set of draft articles on responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, thus concluding work that had been on its agenda for almost 50 years. The Commission also adopted a set of draft articles on the prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and advanced work on a number of other topics, notably, reservations to treaties, unilateral acts of States and diplomatic protection.

223. At its session in 2001, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted two major texts, the draft Convention on Assignment of Receivables in International Trade and the Model Law on Electronic Signatures. The draft Convention, which was referred to the General Assembly for conclusion, will enhance the availability of credit at more affordable rates, thus facilitating international trade and a more equitable distribution of the benefits of international trade among all peoples. The Model Law on Electronic Signatures is aimed at facilitating electronic commerce by promoting a safe environment for all participants to share in the benefits of modern technology. The Commission also took note of ongoing work on arbitration and insolvency and decided to begin work in the fields of electronic contracting, transport law, privately financed infrastructure projects and secured transactions.

224. The past year has seen no less than 83 ratifications of, and accessions to, the 12 existing global conventions for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. Particularly gratifying is the fact that 16 States ratified or acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, which, as a result, entered into force on 23 May 2001. The Ad Hoc Committee and the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly commenced work on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Efforts to resolve

outstanding issues regarding plans for an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism continue.

225. In 1999, the General Assembly launched consultations to facilitate its annual review of developments in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea. The second series was held in May 2001 and addressed illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, marine science, piracy and the economic and social impacts of marine degradation, particularly in coastal areas.

226. The Office of Legal Affairs advised UNMIK and UNTAET on the exercise of their legislative and executive authority. In particular, it assisted the two Administrations in establishing legal frameworks for transitional, democratic and autonomous selfgoverning institutions. The Office continued to provide legal advice to the Organization's other peacekeeping missions. In particular, it participated in the negotiation of several status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements, the finalization of the Agreement between the United Nations and Ethiopia concerning the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea and the Agreement between the United Nations and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia concerning the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. Further, the Office provided legal advice to participants in the Burundi peace process under former President Nelson Mandela's facilitation, and contributed to implementing recommendations made by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations.

227. The Office of Legal Affairs successfully defended the Organization in complex arbitration proceedings involving a \$20 million claim; assisted in the resolution of claims against the Organization arising out of its peacekeeping operations; cooperated with host State authorities in recovering nearly \$750,000 worth of Member States' contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme that had erroneously been credited to a private individual's bank account; assisted in negotiating a number of agreements with the private sector; and provided advice on implementation of the "oil-for-food" programme, including negotiation of agreements to facilitate the diversification and better protection of its assets.

Chapter V

Enhancing management

Administration and management

228. Member States have continued to support management reform within the United Nations and have endorsed detailed proposals in three priority areas: human resources reform, information technology policy, and the capital master plan. The Organization is now equipped to operate more efficiently and effectively and to make the best use of its financial and human resources.

Human resources reform

229. Comprehensive human resources reform, unanimously agreed to by Member States, will change the Organization's management culture. It will enable the Secretariat to be more flexible and responsive in its use of human resources, a necessity given the evolution of the United Nations from a headquarters-based organization into one with a strong field presence. The reforms will modernize the Organization's human resources management standards and strengthen its capacity to recruit, develop and manage its staff.

Capitalizing on technology

230. The United Nations information technology strategy, designed to promote access to and sharing of information, support field operations, strengthen technical infrastructure, build human resources capacity, and launch an e-administration, will ensure a coordinated approach to technical challenges. An example of work already under way is the Integrated Information Management System (IMIS). This electronic administration system for human resources, finance, accounts and procurement, is being installed throughout the Secretariat, and will serve to anchor future technological improvements in this rapidly changing field. We are poised to establish field connectivity so that we can use IMIS for the Organization's operations around the globe. Ongoing efforts to render the system more user-friendly will encourage its use and therefore increase productivity.

Capital master plan

231. The capital master plan, including its financing components, was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. Member States supported its plans for the proactive refurbishing of the Headquarters complex, and a comprehensive design plan and detailed cost analysis are in preparation.

Future challenges

232. Numerous other reform initiatives, at various stages of implementation, are under way. Procurement reform has been successfully completed, and the simplification and streamlining of the Organization's rules and procedures is progressing smoothly. The electronic personnel manual is now available through the Intranet, and has proved to be an invaluable tool for responsible, consistent and uniform managerial action. We are continually shifting to a more results-based mode of operation. Performance indicators are being introduced at all levels; for example, in the financial area, through the introduction of results-based budgeting, and in the personnel area, through refinements in the performance evaluation system.

233. The Secretariat will continue to implement comprehensive management reform, introducing best management practices and technologies, so that limited resources are made available for priorities. It will complete and implement a Key Item Management Reporting System, make productivity a managerial responsibility, and extend IMIS, with its far-reaching management control functions, to all major duty stations and peacekeeping missions. Innovations will continue to be introduced in the context of the overall information technology strategy. Human resources management reform will also continue. The introduction and refinement of performance measurements, through the performance appraisal system, and through the introduction of results-based budgeting, are geared towards ensuring the delivery of high-priority services identified by Member States.

234. The introduction of sunset provisions in all of the Organization's legislative directives, another important step towards revitalizing the Organization, still awaits acceptance by Member States. Once adopted, sunset provisions will orient the Organization's work programme to high-priority tasks as they evolve.

Financial situation

235. In the area of fiscal responsibility, the United Nations has demonstrated consistent budgetary discipline. There has been no budgetary growth over the last four biennia, and there has even been a reduction in the Organization's budget. The Organization has absorbed the effects of inflation and a large number of unfunded mandates. At the same time, it has succeeded in reallocating resources from low priority areas and administrative services to higher priority programmes identified by Member States. While many Member States have responded to Secretariat efforts to improve the collection of current and outstanding assessments, a number of major contributors have paid none or only part of their dues. This has forced the United Nations to borrow from peacekeeping accounts to offset the earlier and larger than usual deficit currently being experienced. It is clear that the United Nations cannot function effectively unless all Member States pay their dues, in full, on time and without conditions.

Accountability and oversight

236. Since its creation in 1994, the Office of Internal Oversight Services has evolved from a collection of small autonomous units reporting to the Administration into an independent, integrated Office providing a comprehensive range of internal oversight services. It is now recognized — both within and outside the Organization — as an objective source of reliable information and an agent of change in the United Nations.

237. The work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services extends from audits to consulting, evaluations, monitoring, inspections and investigations. It produces semi-annual overall performance assessments of the departments and offices under my charge. During the past year, oversight activities resulted in over 2,000 recommendations related to strengthening internal controls and improving management performance, and identified some \$58 million in potential cost savings and recoveries. The number of recommendations is significantly higher than that reported in previous years. In order to reflect its widening global coverage, the Office is for the first time also making recommendations issued through observations made at the operating level in the field. The emphasis of the Office on full implementation of its recommendations results in ongoing dialogue between it and the rest of the Organization. To focus on areas that warrant special monitoring, the Office has recently developed criteria to identify those of its recommendations that have a critical and far-reaching impact on the Organization's operations.

238. The Office of Internal Oversight Services has convened several senior staff workshops to address strategic oversight planning issues such as maximizing the value added to the Organization, making greater use of information technology, and improving staff competencies. Achievement of the Office's oversight goals ultimately depends on the quality of the work it produces and the significance and impact of its recommendations. It is therefore critical for the Office to use the most up-to-date oversight techniques and procedures, such as those used by advanced private and public sector oversight entities.

239. As a result of a strategic planning exercise, which began last year, the Office of Internal Oversight Services proposes to merge its monitoring, evaluation, inspection and consulting functions. This will allow for a

more synthesized gathering of qualitative data, facilitating the preparation of programme performance reports, as requested by the intergovernmental bodies. The Office also proposes to strengthen the investigations subprogramme to cope with the increasing number of cases received, and to establish an office at Geneva to deliver more responsive and coordinated oversight services there.

240. As the United Nations has become more fieldbased, it has delegated increased levels of authority in areas such as procurement and human resources management. This obliges us to ensure that proper controls are in place in the field, and that adequate checks and balances exist. It is encouraging to note that the Office of Internal Oversight Services has increased its oversight of field activities, including the operations of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Office of the Iraq Programme.

Audit management and consulting

241. The Audit and Management Consulting Division placed special emphasis on audits of peacekeeping operations, humanitarian and related activities, human resources management and procurement of goods and services. The Division also conducted management audits addressing some of the major reform issues facing the Organization, such as recruitment.

242. The Division has expanded audit coverage of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Audits were conducted at Headquarters and numerous field missions during the past year. Resident auditors assigned to major peacekeeping missions provided continuous audit coverage and assisted management in establishing appropriate internal controls. Resident auditors have been posted to Abidjan and Nairobi to cover the decentralized operations of UNHCR in Africa, and to provide audit and management advice to the regional directors. As a temporary measure, resident auditors have also been assigned to UNHCR emergency operations in East Timor and Kosovo. Investigations

243. The Investigations Section carries out internal oversight responsibilities by examining reports of violations of United Nations regulations, rules and pertinent administrative issuances to ensure greater staff member accountability and to protect the Organization's resources. During the reporting period, the Section received over 400 new cases and produced 36 reports containing its recommendations to the relevant programme. Recommendations were also made in several cases where staff members were cleared of allegations of wrongdoing, as the evidence gathered during the investigations did not substantiate the report received.

244. At the invitation of my Special Representatives in Kosovo and in East Timor, the Section opened Resident Investigator offices in UNMIK and UNTAET to provide a range of investigative services to the missions, and help to train staff to build the investigation capacity of the civilian administration.

245. Major investigations conducted during the reporting period included the misdirection of funds at UNEP and an investigation into allegations of feesplitting between defence counsel and indigent detainees at the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The Office of Internal Oversight Services also led an international task force investigating bribery and extortion of refugees in Kenya seeking resettlement, which resulted in the arrest of nine people.

Central monitoring and inspection

246. The Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit conducted inspections of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, and the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. From the inspection of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs it was concluded that the Department had promoted greater policy and programme coherence and provided more effective substantive support to the intergovernmental and interagency machineries. Improvements need to be made in evaluating development cooperation activities and implementing organization-wide executive decisions.

247. The inspection of Conference Services showed that streamlining technical support services had allowed for improved planning and more rational resource allocation, and enhanced the efficiency of services provided to intergovernmental and expert bodies. Further feedback mechanisms, such as surveys, would improve the quality of its services. In its inspection of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Office of Internal Oversight Services observed that that Office was being run in a highly centralized and arbitrary manner. No consistent system for programme oversight was in place, and the absence of clearly defined delegation of authority clouded accountability. Member States, including donors and recipients of services, indicated that this had adversely affected fulfilment of its mandates and implementation of some projects. The Office for Drug

Control and Crime Prevention accepted all of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and initiated a series of measures to improve the situation.

Central evaluation

248. The Central Evaluation Unit examined the population and sustainable development programmes of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the past year. The examination found that the value of the Population Division's reports and publications as reference work, and their comprehensiveness and technical quality, is well recognized, and that the Division has made a significant contribution to the understanding of international migration. The evaluation of the sustainable development programme focused on current programme implementation issues. The Office of Internal Oversight Services recommended actions to improve support for intergovernmental processes, streamline reporting and enhance the quality of information presented. All the evaluation recommendations were endorsed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-first session, in June 2001.

249. The Unit also completed triennial reviews of the implementation of the recommendations resulting from in-depth evaluations of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The Office of Internal Oversight Services found that, although some of the recommendations were implemented satisfactorily, the overall level of implementation was somewhat disappointing, as the Drug Control Programme had not addressed the underlying problems identified in the evaluation. The Office of Internal Oversight Services is monitoring implementation of those recommendations that have not yet been implemented.

Chapter VI

Partnerships

Communications

250. As I noted in my previous annual report, the United Nations has succeeded in forging global partnerships that would hardly have been conceivable even a decade ago. These partnerships continue to be strengthened by the Organization's communications and information strategy, which rests on a clear understanding that the goals of the United Nations can be met only if an informed public understands its mission.

251. The world is assailed by an information overload, and yet we are charged with the responsibility of giving a public face and discernible meaning to the activities and programmes of the Organization. For the Department of Public Information, this has meant integrating otherwise diverse operations into strategic global advocacy campaigns. The Department has highlighted tangible results of the major international conferences convened by the United Nations over the past year. Several initiatives, including the "UN works" campaign, capturing the direct impact of the Organization on the lives of people; a documentary film on light weapons, *Armed to the Teeth*; and a United Nations in Action report on human rights and special features on health issues in Africa in the United Nations Chronicle have contributed to articulating the importance of achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

252. As the Millennium Declaration affirms, the benefits of new information and communication technologies must be available to all. This mandate drives our efforts to provide developing countries with immediate access to news developments at the United Nations. The global growth in Internet and email access, including in the least developed countries, has allowed us to communicate rapidly and in real time with the media of developing countries. Most of those media entities have no representation at the United Nations, and email and web-based news services are of enormous service and interest to them.

253. A daily news service has been established on the United Nations web site, reporting on and providing links to United Nations activities, operations, documents and other sources of information available electronically, including direct links from the field, complete with digital images. The news service is part of the United Nations News Centre, specifically designed to be an electronic gateway to news throughout the United Nations system, helping to ensure timely and global access to information on the Organization. In addition, an email news alert system is being put in place as a more direct and proactive means of electronic communication to target audiences. A similar system is already regularly used to alert media in all parts of the world to important developments.

254. The launch of daily news bulletins by United Nations Radio in the six official languages of the Organization is a further dramatic example of the Department reaching out to cross the "digital divide" between developed and developing countries. Transmitted to hundreds of radio stations in all regions of the world, these

live radio broadcasts have a daily audience of tens of millions. More than 100 radio and television networks have received public service announcements relating to the commemoration of this Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. The United Nations web site, also in all official languages, has averaged 4 million hits a day this year, twice the number in 2000. The multilingualism essential to this success is being fostered creatively: an agreement is being finalized, for instance, with a number of universities in Spain to provide translations of material on the web site into Spanish. United Nations Information Centres expand the site's outreach further, with creatively tailored messages in the languages of their areas of operation.

255. Technology facilitates the channelling of traditional forms of information outreach, notably print, in a manner that is attractive, accessible and yet economical. Articles by outside contributors have highlighted the successes and the limitations of United Nations activities. Republishing individual articles in other media has also promoted a multiplier effect of the content.

256. Media outreach programmes continue to expand awareness of United Nations activities. United Nations Information Centres nurture relationships with local media, non-governmental organizations and the broader public to ensure that the Organization's concerns are widely understood. With generous support from the Government of Japan, 15 journalists from Asia attended high-level briefings at United Nations Headquarters, and 19 participants joined the Department's annual training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries.

257. In the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, digitalization of documents and creation of resource databases have rendered this world-class repository of information more accessible. In the past year, the Library responded to 60,000 individual reference queries and delivered electronic journals via email to readers.

258. The Department of Public Information continues to work actively to implement the Millennium Declaration's goal of giving "greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes". Those partners include 1,600 non-governmental organizations formally associated with the Department; participants in guided tours for whom a new, comprehensive "visitors' experience" is being planned; school students who have enthusiastically joined programmes devised on the electronic Cyberschoolbus; and the business community, which accesses procurement opportunities in developing countries through the print and on-line editions of Development Business. Further, the Department supports the political, economic and humanitarian actors within the United Nations through the Cartographic Section, which remains a vital resource to the Organization as a whole.

259. The communication revolution has thrown open new, and increasingly accessible, technologies, even as it offers fresh possibilities to enhance and energize existing means of dissemination. Today's resources are essential to redeem tomorrow's promise, however. As the Department of Public Information moves beyond reorientation to modernization, it is essential that it should not be compelled, by a multiplicity of mandates and a lack of realistic resources, to spread itself too thin.

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

260. The United Nations continues to benefit from an ever-expanding range of partnerships with the business community, philanthropic foundations and civil society organizations. Private sector interest in cooperating with the United Nations is intensifying and my office is increasingly called upon to develop innovative partnerships with a wide range of civil society actors. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) plays a vital role in developing networks to benefit the United Nations system. The Fund identifies new avenues for partnership with a wide range of external partners; provides advice on programme design; offers guidance on United Nations rules of procedure and funding modalities; and supports the creation of an enabling environment for corporate and individual philanthropy.

261. The Fund entered its fourth year in March 2001. As the counterpart of the United Nations Foundation, it has programmed nearly \$385 million in support of more than 170 projects, involving 32 United Nations organizations in more than 100 countries. In 2001, the Fund added a peace, security and human rights portfolio to its ongoing programmes in children's health, environment, and women and population. In the past year, an additional \$63 million in programme funds was mobilized from a wide range of partners. Together with the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP also encourages complementarity and coordination by bringing together United Nations organizations in joint programming.

262. The Fund has developed and continues to develop collaborative arrangements with the private sector and foundations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Coca-Cola

Company, Cisco Systems, Ericsson, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce World Markets, United Way International and others. In collaboration with UNAIDS and the Global Business Council on HIV/AIDS, for example, UNFIP served as a private sector interlocutor to support fund-raising efforts for HIV/AIDS. It also helped in the creation of a facility for the receipt of private sector funds by the United Nations Foundation, pending the establishment of the Global AIDS and Health Fund. UNFIP continues to provide coordination for the Health InterNetwork, administered by WHO, and the United Nations Information Technology Service, administered by the United Nations Volunteers. It will continue to focus on promoting partnerships to advance the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

Project services

263. The only completely self-financing entity in the United Nations system, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), finances itself on a fee-for-service basis. In 2000, UNOPS acquired new business valued at \$948 million and delivered more than \$471 million in services in over 2,600 projects worldwide. It also approved disbursement of \$193 million in loans for projects it is supervising on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

264. During the year, UNOPS worked predominantly to diversify its client base, building on its core relationship with UNDP. In 2000, acquisition of projects from new United Nations partners totalled an unprecedented \$132 million, exceeding project acquisition from the regular resources of UNDP. In the first six months of 2001, demand for project services from clients other than UNDP approached a record \$200 million.

265. New clients requesting UNOPS services included UNEP, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNMIK and UNTAET. In both East Timor and Kosovo, major procurement operations were carried out to support the United Nations efforts to establish interim governing structures. Its operations yielded a substantial cost savings to clients and contributed to building local capacity for reconstruction.

266. As project work on behalf of non-traditional clients grows, so do new partnerships characterized by a clear division of labour. While project funders retain responsibility for the expertise provided in the area of their mandate, UNOPS acts as a project manager, assuming responsibility for operational and commercial activity and managing the financial risks and liabilities inherent in the contracting process. The Office's comparative advantage in results-based management, and the potential to transfer this knowledge to the United Nations system at large, is increasingly recognized. In 2000, UNOPS provided management consultancy services to ESCAP to support its revitalization programme and to the Department of Technical Cooperation of IAEA to analyse workload pressures. Consulting services were also provided in Guatemala, where WFP asked the Office for assistance in formulating its country programme; at the request of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, UNOPS provided consulting services to the Soros Foundation, the Centre for Legal Action and Human Rights and the Government of Norway on issues relating to the implementation of peace agreements and the follow-up of the Commission for Historical Clarification.

267. UNOPS efforts are expected to yield great results in 2001. Under its dedicated partnership regime, a new services offering, United Nations organizations may hire UNOPS to broker partnerships or to implement projects under existing partnership agreements. To date, 11 agreements have been signed with nongovernmental organizations and private sector firms. One such partnership, funded by UNFIP, is bringing HIV/AIDS education to remote communities in Nepal. Another is transferring trade and business skills to local artisans in Mozambique. Such partnerships strengthen project delivery and attract new stakeholders whose support is critical to the global mandates of the United Nations.

Partnerships with civil society

268. Over the past year, cooperation with civil society, including a wide range of non-governmental organizations and the private sector, has continued to develop. Existing initiatives in the areas of policy dialogue and advocacy for United Nations values and activities are being consolidated. At the same time we are building new partnerships with the business community, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors in order to promote informationsharing and learning, to support operational delivery and to mobilize private funds.

269. At the policy level, two notable developments have been the launch of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the establishment of the high-level Policy Network on Youth Employment. Both of these cooperative efforts are drawing on the expertise and resources of nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and academia, to help us increase our effectiveness in addressing critical development issues. Nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and other civil society actors, including

parliamentarians, are also providing valuable input to the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in 2002, working closely with the relevant United Nations bodies to share expertise, learn from existing experience, and propose future joint action.

270. My Global Compact initiative continues to evolve as a multi-stakeholder network focused on three core areas of activity, namely, learning, dialogue and action. The network now consists of several hundred companies, business associations, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations active in the areas of environment, labour, human rights and development. A key focus during the past 12 months has been to involve more companies and business associations from developing countries, and almost two thirds of our private sector participants are now from those countries. The International Labour Organization, UNEP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNDP continue to play a central role, and other United Nations bodies are involved in specific areas of the initiative. UNCTAD, for example, is working with the International Chamber of Commerce and individual companies on a programme of investment deliverables for the least developed countries, including investment guides, linkages and advisory councils. The International Organization of Employers is working with the International Labour Organization to develop training materials on the Compact's nine principles for its national organizations in over 100 countries, and is cooperating with UNAIDS to strengthen the capacity of employers organizations to tackle HIV/AIDS, especially in Africa. Several regional commissions are using the Global Compact as a framework for dialogue and partnerships with the private sector in their regions. A learning forum has been established, managed by a consortium of academic institutions, and a policy dialogue has been initiated on the role of the private sector in zones of conflict. Individual companies are supporting development projects in partnership with the United Nations in areas such as HIV/AIDS, micro-credit, digital divide, diversity, and humanitarian and refugee support.

271. We continue to mobilize funds, product donations and volunteer support through the work of UNFIP, as well as advocacy and fund-raising programmes initiated by individual United Nations bodies, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and UNHCR. These range from long-standing initiatives, such as the UNICEF Change for Good programme, to more recent cooperative efforts, such as NetAid and corporate support for our UN works cyber-magazine.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter I (pp. 46–107)

International peace and security

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 46: Nobel Peace Prize, 46; Follow-up to Millennium Summit (2000), 47; Follow-up to Security Council Summit (2000), 47; Implementation of 1970 Declaration, 48; Conflict prevention, 48; Peace-building, 55; Roster of peacebuilding offices, 59. THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 60: International terrorism, 60. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 70: In-depth examination of UN peacekeeping operations, 71; General aspects of UN peacekeeping, 76; Comprehensive review of peacekeeping, 86; Operations in 2001, 90; Roster of 2001 operations, 91; Financial and administrative aspects of peacekeeping operations, 92. OTHER PEACEKEEPING MATTERS, 107.

The year 2001 witnessed new and extraordinary challenges to international peace and security, dramatized by the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council immediately condemned the attacks, expressed condolences and solidarity with the people and Government of the United States and called for urgent international action to eradicate terrorism and to hold the organizers, perpetrators and sponsors accountable. Towards that end, the Council, in September, adopted a number of measures designed to stifle international terrorist activities and established a committee to monitor implementation of those measures by Member States. In November, the Council adopted a declaration on the global effort to combat terrorism, in which it proposed further measures, including the provision of assistance to Member States.

Although the 11 September attacks dominated international attention, the United Nations was no less preoccupied with other threats to international peace and security and with its own efforts to consolidate its peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-building efforts. In recognition of those efforts, the Norwegian Nobel Committee, on 12 October, announced the joint award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations and its Secretary-General, Kofi A. Annan, for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world. On the same day, the Security Council congratulated the recipients and paid tribute to the men and women who worked for the United Nations in the service of peace.

In the context of the need to enhance the Organization's conflict prevention efforts, the Council, in February, held a debate on a comprehensive approach to peace-building, during which it supported the formulation of an integrated strategy in that regard. In June, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council and the General Assembly a number of recommendations on how to further develop the UN system's conflict prevention capacity, with the cooperation and involvement of Member States.

The United Nations political and peacebuilding missions continued to lead UN efforts to consolidate peace and promote democratization and the rule of law. In 2001, the number of such missions in operation rose to 12. At the same time, efforts continued to strengthen and streamline the management and operation of UN peacekeeping missions through the implementation of the recommendations made in 2000 by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations in the Brahimi report. As part of those efforts, the Secretariat conducted the first in-depth managerial examination of UN peacekeeping operations and identified core capacities that required further strengthening. During the year, the United Nations deployed no new peacekeeping missions, with the total number of missions remaining at 15 (4 in Africa, 3 in Asia, 5 in Europe and 3 in the Middle East). However, the number of military personnel and civilian police serving under UN command increased to some 47,000 compared to 37,719 the year before; they were supported by some 12,800 international and local civilian staff.

The Council, in January, established a working group on peacekeeping operations to address generic peacekeeping issues and technical aspects of individual peacekeeping operations. It also adopted measures to improve consultations among the Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the body responsible for reviewing UN peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, met in June and recommended action to enhance UN peacekeeping capacity and to fulfil peacekeeping responsibilities in the field. It approved most of the recommendations of the in-depth management review of peacekeeping operations.

The cost of UN peacekeeping operations increased to \$2,378.7 million for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, compared with \$1,756.8 million during the previous 12-month period. Unpaid assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations also increased to \$2,352.3 million, compared with \$2,128.9 million during the previous period. The Assembly considered various aspects of peacekeeping financing, financial performance reports and proposed budgets, including the peacekeeping support account and the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy. It considered the Secretary-General's report on the use of resident auditors at peacekeeping missions and endorsed further recommendations on reform procedures for determining reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment and troop costs. The Secretariat clarified for Member States the procedures adopted in 2000 for apportioning the expenses of peacekeeping operations.

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Chapter II (pp. 109–238)

Africa

PROMOTION OF PEACE IN AFRICA, 111. CENTRAL AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES REGION, 115: Democratic Republic of the Congo, 116; Burundi, 145; Rwanda, 152; Central African Republic, 152. WEST AFRICA, 159: Sierra Leone, 163; Liberia, 180; Guinea-Bissau, 187. HORN OF AFRICA, 191: Eritrea-Ethiopia, 191; Somalia, 207. NORTH AFRICA, 213: Western Sahara, 213; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 222; Sudan, 223. SOUTHERN AFRICA, 224: Angola, 224. OTHER QUESTIONS, 235: Comoros, 235; Cote d'Ivoire, 235; Mozambique, 235; Cooperation between OAU and the UN system, 235; Portuguese-speaking countries, 238.

Although Africa continued to be plagued by numerous conflicts in 2001, several of them showed signs of amelioration as political situations evolved and diplomatic efforts, including those by the United Nations, began to take effect and show positive results. The situation in war-affected countries was further complicated by problems of economic stagnation, flows of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the spread of HIV/AIDS. In some cases, for example Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sierra Leone, warfare was fuelled by the illegal trade in raw diamonds, known as “conflict” or “blood” diamonds, and the exploitation of other natural resources. Various UN bodies investigated that issue.

The General Assembly’s working group on ways to implement the 1998 recommendations of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa focused in 2001 on two themes—education, and conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building—and made suggestions for further action in both areas. The Secretary-General issued his own report on follow-up action in the area of peace and security and reviewed UN action with regard to governance and sustainable development. The Assembly endorsed the working group’s proposals for further action.

The area of major conflict continued to be the Great Lakes region, which was again dominated by events in the DRC, where war involved several opposition forces and troops from six neighbouring countries. Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda supported opposition groups in the DRC, and the Government was supported by Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The Security Council dispatched a mission to eight countries of the region in May to assess the situation and make recommendations for resuming the road to peace. In January, President Laurent-Désiré Kabila was assassinated, and his son, Joseph Kabila, replaced him. Those events and statements by the new President were followed by a reduction in fighting; the opposing sides began disengaging from the confrontation line and Namibia and Uganda had withdrawn many of their troops from DRC territory by the end of the year. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) was thus able to take up the next phase of its mandate—the observation and monitoring of the disarmament, demobilization and resettlement of combatants—which required the expansion of its peacekeeping force, and the Council extended the Mission’s mandate until 15 June 2002. The ceasefire held in most of the country, with the exception of eastern DRC, where violations increased in late 2001. The factions and other interested parties met in an inter-Congolese dialogue on 15 October, but did not consider substantive issues.

In Burundi, the conflict between government forces and armed opposition groups continued, despite their agreement in 2000 to cease hostilities. The Facilitator of the peace process in that country, Nelson Mandela, intensified efforts to resolve the conflict and was able to bring the parties together to agree on a transitional government, which was installed on 1 November under a power-sharing formula.

The conflict in the DRC also continued to affect Rwanda, which maintained that its troops in the DRC were necessary to preserve its own security. The situation inside Rwanda remained calm and the Government focused on a transition to democracy and overhauling the justice system.

The internal situation of the Central African Republic deteriorated in 2001 as a result of an attempted coup d’état in May and other manifestations of political opposition. The lack of dialogue between the country’s political stakeholders was a serious obstacle to the sustainability of the democratic institutions established a year before, and the country’s economic situation was dire. The United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the

Central African Republic, established in 2000, continued to support the Government's efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation.

Tensions also rose in West Africa in early 2001, especially in Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. However, there was encouraging progress towards peace and stability later in the year, especially in Sierra Leone. The Secretary-General dispatched an inter-agency mission to the region in March, which visited 11 countries and remarked on the stability of the political and security situation in the Mano River Union countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and the Casamance region of Senegal. The mission urged the international community to adopt an integrated regional approach to prevent, manage and contribute to resolving the many conflicts in the region. Acting on its recommendations, the Secretary-General decided to establish the Office of the Special Representative for West Africa, as from January 2002.

The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the size and scope of which was expanded by the Council during 2001, maintained contacts with the Government and the main rebel group to follow up on the implementation of the 2000 Abuja Ceasefire Agreement. Progress was reported, and the withdrawal of forces and disarmament were nearly completed by the end of the year. In September, the Council extended UNAMSIL's mandate until March 2002. Cross-border fighting along Sierra Leone's boundaries with Guinea and Liberia flared up in early 2001 but abated following a dialogue among the three countries. Acting on the Government's suggestion, the Secretary-General pursued efforts to establish a Special Court for Sierra Leone and decided to send a planning mission to that country in January 2002. In addition, the United Nations provided support for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone, also expected to begin work in 2002.

Fighting in northern Liberia in early 2001 threatened the border regions in Guinea and Sierra Leone, as did Liberia's assistance to rebels in Sierra Leone. Liberia's support included exporting rough diamonds obtained in Sierra Leone, which reportedly financed the rebels' military efforts. The Council, in March, demanded that Liberia cease its support of the rebels and imposed an arms embargo against Liberia and sanctions against importing diamonds from Liberia. The tension between the Mano River Union countries decreased following ministerial meetings that began in August.

The Government of Guinea-Bissau, which had been formed in 2000 in accordance with the 1998 Abuja Peace Accord, remained precarious in 2001. The United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau continued to report on developments within the country and along its border with Senegal.

The Horn of Africa remained calm but tense in 2001. The subregion was beset by problems and struggled to overcome disputes, both bilateral, as in the case of the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and internal, as in Somalia. Eritrea and Ethiopia generally continued to abide by the Peace Agreement they had signed in December 2000, but progress in its implementation was slow, particularly with regard to the demarcation of the boundary. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) monitored the ceasefire and the Temporary Security Zone between the two countries. In late 2001, Eritrea restricted movement of UNMEE in certain areas.

The humanitarian situation in Angola deteriorated significantly in 2001 as the conflict between the Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) intensified and UNITA guerrilla attacks, particularly against civilians, increased in frequency. The number of people displaced as a result of the civil strife rose to 4.1 million by the end of the year. Matters changed towards the latter part of the year when the Government gained the upper hand in the fighting and reportedly moved into much of the area previously under UNITA control. The United Nations hoped that the new situation would provide a window of opportunity to advance the peace process and set the stage for elections. The Security Council, through its Sanctions Committee and the Monitoring Mechanism, continued to investigate violations of the sanctions against UNITA.

The United Nations pursued efforts to hold a referendum in Western Sahara for the self-determination of its people, as agreed in 1990 by Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO), but progress was negligible. The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy proposed a different approach—for Morocco to retain responsibility for foreign relations, national security and defence, while executive, legislative and judicial bodies in the Territory would have competence over local issues. Morocco

indicated its support for the plan, while POLISARIO and Algeria objected to it on the grounds that it provided for the integration of Western Sahara into Morocco. Meanwhile, the United Nations continued its work on identifying eligible voters for holding a referendum.

In January, the Scottish Court sitting in the Netherlands concluded its trial of two nationals of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya accused of plotting the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. One of the accused was found guilty and the other not guilty.

The Council, in September, having taken into account the Sudan's efforts to cooperate with the international community by acceding to antiterrorism conventions, to improve relations with neighbouring countries and to discharge its obligations under various Council resolutions, terminated the sanctions it had imposed against that country in 1996.

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Chapter III (pp. 239–253)

Americas

CENTRAL AMERICA, 239: Guatemala, 243. HAITI, 248: International Civilian Support Mission, 249; Financing of missions, 250. OTHER QUESTIONS, 252: Costa Rica-Panama, 252; Cuba-Panama, 252; Cuba-United States, 252.

During 2001, the United Nations continued to advance the cause of lasting peace, human rights, sustainable development and the rule of law in the Americas. The Organization monitored the political and security situation in Central America, where, despite delays in the implementation of the peace agreements in Guatemala, progress was made in the consolidation of greater democratization throughout the subregion. Peaceful general elections were held in November in both Honduras and Nicaragua.

The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) continued to fulfil its mandate of verifying compliance with the 1996 peace accords between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca. In December, the General Assembly extended MINUGUA's mandate until 31 December 2002. In order to reactivate and speed up the implementation of pending commitments on the peace agenda, the Commission to Follow Up the Implementation of the Peace Agreements defined priority agendas for the State's executive, legislative and judiciary branches.

In Haiti, a political and security crisis continued to stall the implementation of essential structural reforms, which undermined social and economic development. The inauguration of Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 7 February as Haiti's President further polarized political and civil society, leading to major outbreaks of violence throughout the year. The mandate of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAHA) ended on 6 February. The United Nations Development Programme assumed responsibility for formulating a post-MICAHA transition programme and other UN agencies continued to provide assistance to Haiti throughout 2001.

In November, the Assembly again called on States to refrain from promulgating laws and measures such as the ongoing United States economic embargo against Cuba.

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Chapter IV (pp. 254–319)

Asia and the Pacific

AFGHANISTAN, 255: Situation in Afghanistan, 255; Sanctions, 269. EAST TIMOR, 272: Financing of UN operations, 286. IRAQ, 290: UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission and IAEA activities, 290; Iraq-Kuwait, 292; Arms and related sanctions, 298; Oil-for-food programme, 300; UN Compensation Commission and Fund, 313; Other issues, 313. OTHER MATTERS, 314: Cambodia, 314; Fiji, 314; IndiaPakistan, 316; Iran-Iraq, 316; Korea question, 316; Saudi Arabia-Iraq, 317; Solomon Islands, 317; Tajikistan, 318.

The United Nations addressed major political and security challenges in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2001, especially in Afghanistan, East Timor and Iraq.

In Afghanistan, the military conflict between the Taliban and the United Front continued for most of the year. The restrictions imposed on the delivery of humanitarian assistance and other acts committed by the Taliban, such as the destruction of non-Islamic statues and shrines, further deteriorated an already tenuous relationship between the authorities in Kabul and the international community. The Secretary-General, during a visit to the region in March, called attention to the plight of Afghan refugees and strongly exhorted the Taliban to refrain from destroying non-Islamic statues, but to no avail. However, the 11 September attacks in the United States, carried out by Afghanistan-based Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network Al-Qa'idah, changed the Afghan political landscape. The Taliban's refusal to abide by Security Council resolutions and to hand over bin Laden to the proper authorities brought about a United States-led military intervention (Operation Enduring Freedom), which resulted in the overthrow of that regime. A UN-sponsored conference in Bonn, Germany, attended by various Afghan ethnic groups, laid the foundations for the beginning of a process of transition towards a freely elected and constitutional government. An Afghan Interim Administration, headed by Hamid Karzai, was established in December and the Security Council authorized the establishment of the International Security Assistance Force to help maintain security in Kabul and its surrounding areas. Lakhdar Brahimi was appointed as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, supported by an Integrated Management Task Force. The United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan continued to promote political dialogue throughout the year, despite the restrictions imposed by the Taliban.

In East Timor, substantial progress was made in the transition towards independence and selfgovernment. The first Constituent Assembly, which was elected in August, recommended 20 May 2002 as the date for independence and started the Constitution-drafting process. The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, which had been entrusted with full governing and military power over the territory, guided the transition process by devolving power to East Timorese institutions. The Security Council endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations for a reduced UN integrated mission in the post-independence period and expressed concern at the continued presence of large numbers of East Timorese refugees in West Timor.

UN activities to verify Iraq's compliance with its weapons-related obligations under Council resolution 687(1991), which brought a formal ceasefire to the 1991 Gulf war, continued to be stalled following the withdrawal in December 1998 of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, which assumed UNSCOM's monitoring and verification activities in 2000, was not able to carry out its activities inside Iraqi territory. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission continued to monitor the demilitarized zone between the two countries. The Council extended the humanitarian programme in Iraq, based on the oil-for-food formula, and worked on securing improvements to the sanctions regime and on modifications to the oil-for-food programme based on a goods review list. In November, it pledged to adopt such a list for implementation starting in May 2002.

In Fiji, a United Nations Electoral Observer Mission monitored the general elections in August, which represented a major step towards a return to full constitutional democracy following the May 2000 coup d'état. The activities of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding were extended for another year, until June 2002, in order to continue to support Tajikistan in its post-conflict peace-building efforts.

Among other concerns brought to the attention of the United Nations were the longstanding dispute between India and Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir; violations reported by Iran and Iraq of their 1988 ceasefire agreement and the 1991 agreement on the area of separation between them; and reciprocal accusations of border violations reported by Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

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Chapter V (pp. 320–403)

Europe and the Mediterranean

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, 320: UN operations, 320; State succession issues, 323; Prevlaka peninsula, 323. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, 327: Implementation of Peace Agreement, 329. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA, 345: Situation in Kosovo, 345; Sanctions against FRY, 366; Other issues, 367. FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, 368. GEORGIA, 374: UN Observer Mission in Georgia, 374. ARMENIA/AZERBAIJAN, 389. CYPRUS, 390: Good offices mission, 391; UNFICYP, 393. OTHER ISSUES, 396: Cooperation with OSCE, 396; Cooperation with the Council of Europe, 399; Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, 400; Stability and development in South-Eastern Europe, 401.

In 2001, there were encouraging signs that a number of countries in Europe and the Mediterranean were moving closer towards achieving their goal of peace and security. In the Balkans, the contentious issue of State succession was finally settled on 29 June, when the States successors to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) signed the Agreement on Succession Issues, providing for the distribution of SFRY's rights, obligations, assets and liabilities. Following the change of Government in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in 2000, relations with Croatia improved, leading to their joint statement of intent to further normalize bilateral relations and to elaborate a protocol on the identification of borders and the delimitation on land and sea, for which they established an inter-State border commission on 10 December.

The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to pursue its Mandate Implementation Plan, which was due to be completed by the end of 2002. In anticipation of the Plan's completion, the Security Council began to consider proposals as to what form continued UN and international civilian presences in Bosnia and Herzegovina would take thereafter.

Between March and May, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary General, began laying the foundations for the interim period of self-government in the FRY province of Kosovo. That culminated in the Special Representative's promulgation on 16 May of a Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self Government, which paved the way for Kosovo wide elections on 17 November. Formation of a coalition Government and establishment of the provisional self-government institutions followed.

On the Secretary-General's recommendation, the Security Council, on 10 September, terminated the sanctions imposed on FRY and dissolved the committee that had been monitoring them. With the improved situation in the ground safety zone—the buffer zone between Kosovo and Serbia proper—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization allowed the phased return of Yugoslav forces to the area.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the President and the leaders of the four main political parties signed a Framework Agreement on 13 August. Among its main provisions were the cessation of hostilities, the voluntary disarmament and disbandment of the ethnic Albanian armed groups, an unconditional ceasefire and the development of a decentralized Government. In Cyprus, the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, in a 4 December face to-face meeting in the presence of the Secretary General's Personal Adviser for Cyprus, agreed to hold direct talks under the auspices of the Secretary-General's mission of good offices. They further agreed on the conditions for such talks, which would begin on 16 January 2002.

In Georgia, however, the peace process aimed at resolving the Georgian/Abkhaz armed conflict remained stalled. The long-awaited paper on the basic principles for the distribution of competencies between Tbilisi and Sukhumi was finalized in mid-December. The paper, which the Special Representative of the Secretary General transmitted to the parties, was to serve as the basis for substantial negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement, including a definition of the political status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia. Adamant in its rejection of any suggestion that Abkhazia was within the State of Georgia, the Abkhaz party was not prepared to receive the paper.

Attempts to bring about a settlement in the Nagorny-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan also proved unsuccessful. Both sides of the conflict remained entrenched in their positions: Azerbaijan maintained that Nagorny Karabakh was an integral part of the State of Azerbaijan, while Nagorny Karabakh's leadership considered the region a separate, independent entity, referring to it as the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic".

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Chapter VI (pp. 404–466)

Middle East

PEACE PROCESS, 405: Overall situation, 405; Occupied Palestinian Territory, 406. ISSUES RELATED TO PALESTINE, 428: General aspects, 428; Assistance to Palestinians, 435; UNRWA, 437. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 448: Lebanon, 448; Syrian Arab Republic, 461.

The work of the United Nations in the Middle East in 2001 was affected by an ever-growing cycle of violence and retaliation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and by the standstill in the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), despite many international efforts to revive the process. The Palestinian intifada (uprising), which erupted in September 2000 following the visit of the then Israeli opposition leader, Ariel Sharon, to a holy Islamic site in the Old City of Jerusalem, continued in waves throughout the year.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met in late January in Taba, Egypt, and agreed on a number of issues with respect to the situation on the ground, but failed to achieve a comprehensive agreement. The deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and the election on 6 February of a new Israeli Government, headed by Mr. Sharon, led to a breakdown of bilateral negotiations between the two parties.

On 30 April, the Sharm el-Sheikh FactFinding Committee, established following the 2000 summit in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt) and chaired by former United States Senator George Mitchell, reported to the President of the United States and the Secretary-General on the nature and causes of the ongoing violence. The Committee recommended a number of steps to end the violence, starting with the implementation of an unconditional ceasefire and the resumption of security cooperation. The report was accepted by both parties and a ceasefire was brokered in June by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States, George Tenet. In June, the Secretary-General visited the region and encouraged the parties to consolidate the ceasefire and implement the Mitchell Committee's recommendations.

In late September, a meeting took place between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and President of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Although the meeting achieved some progress, the assassination of an Israeli cabinet minister in October brought about a new wave of violence and reprisals. The Israeli Government refused to pursue further talks with Chairman Arafat and occupied and shelled PA buildings; at the same time, a number of Palestinian suicide bombers killed and injured Israeli civilians.

Concerned about the deteriorating situation in the region, the Security Council convened four times, twice in March, once in August and once in December, to discuss the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. On 27 March, a draft resolution, by which the Council would have expressed its determination to establish a UN observer force in the territories occupied by Israel, was not adopted due to the negative vote of the United States, a permanent Council member. On 15 December, a draft resolution, by which the Council would have encouraged the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to help the parties implement the Mitchell recommendations, was also not adopted due to the negative vote of the United States.

In December, the General Assembly resumed its tenth emergency special session, which first convened in 1997, to discuss the item "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". The Assembly adopted the text that had not been adopted by the Council on 15 December. The resolution called for, among other things, the establishment of a monitoring mechanism. Another resolution, adopted on the same day, reiterated the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on Measures to Enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, convened in December in

Geneva, under the chairmanship of Switzerland as the depositary of the Geneva Conventions. The Conference adopted a declaration which, among other things, called on Israel to respect the Convention's provisions.

In southern Lebanon, Israeli troops and their main Lebanese opponents, the paramilitary group Hizbullah, faced each other along the so-called Blue Line, the provisional border drawn by the United Nations following the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon in June 2000. The dispute, which centred on control of the Shab'a farmland, also brought about increased tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The mandates of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights were extended twice during the year, and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) continued to assist both peacekeeping operations in their tasks. In 2001, having fulfilled most of its mandate with regard to observing the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, UNIFIL started a gradual reconfiguration and redeployment phase.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, despite severe financial difficulties, continued to provide a wide-ranging programme of education, health relief and social services to over 3.8 million Palestinian refugees living both in and outside camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. In 2001, the Agency was forced to shift its focus from development to humanitarian emergency assistance due to the increased violence and deteriorating socio-economic situation in the occupied territories. Two emergency appeals were launched to provide short-term emergency employment opportunities for refugees, in addition to food, shelter and health services.

During the year, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories reported to the Assembly on the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People continued to mobilize international support for the Palestinians. In July, together with the UN Division for Palestinian Rights, it organized an international meeting on the question of Palestine in Madrid, Spain, at which participants called for, among other things, the implementation of the Mitchell Committee's recommendations and for the establishment of an international presence to protect civilians and to monitor the implementation of agreements reached between the two parties.

By decision 56/450 of 21 December, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the agenda item "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security" and included it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh (2002) session. The item had been inscribed yearly on the Assembly's agenda since 1981, following the bombing by Israel of a nuclear research centre near Baghdad [YUN 1981, p. 275].

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter VII (pp. 467–524)

Disarmament

UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT, 467: UN machinery, 467. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, 471: Conference on Disarmament, 471; Disarmament Commission, 473; START and other bilateral agreements and unilateral measures, 473; Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 482; Non-Proliferation Treaty, 483; IAEA safeguards, 484; Prohibition of use of nuclear weapons, 486; Advisory opinion of International Court of Justice, 486; Radioactive waste, 487; Nuclear-weapon-free zones, 489. BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS, 493: Bacteriological (biological) weapons, 493; Chemical weapons, 494. CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, 498: Small arms, 499; Convention on excessively injurious conventional weapons and Protocols, 503; Practical disarmament, 505; Transparency, 506; Anti-personnel mines, 509. REGIONAL AND OTHER APPROACHES TO DISARMAMENT, 511: Africa, 511; Asia and the Pacific, 513; Europe, 513; Latin America, 514. OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES, 515: Terrorism, 515; Prevention of an arms race in outer space, 516; Seabed treaty, 517; Disarmament and development, 517; Arms limitation and disarmament agreements, 518. STUDIES, INFORMATION AND TRAINING, 519.

The United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, considered one of the most important disarmament events in 2001, met in July and adopted a Programme of Action, which was seen as a significant first step towards curbing the illicit trade and proliferation of those weapons. In August, the Security Council called on Member States to implement the Programme.

In 2001, the terrorist attacks of 11 September (see p. 60) and subsequent anthrax incidents in the United States raised further concern among the international community over the threat of bioterrorism and the use of weapons of mass destruction. Despite the increased concern, multilateral efforts to strengthen the 1971 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction suffered setbacks, as the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties was suspended in December due to divergent positions on key issues. Earlier in the year, the Ad Hoc Group of the States Parties to the Convention failed to conclude negotiation on a compliance protocol. In related action, the General Assembly, in November, recognizing the close connection between international terrorism and illicit arms-trafficking and the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials, called for multilateral cooperation to deal with the problem.

The Conference on Disarmament once again did not agree on a programme of work and thus remained unable to take action on any of its agenda items during its 2001 session. The Disarmament Commission continued to consider ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament and practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms.

With regard to anti-personnel mines, the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction, in September, noted that considerable areas of mined land had been cleared over the past year, casualty rates had been reduced in several of the most affected States and victim assistance had improved. The Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, held in December, agreed to amend article I of the Convention in order to expand the scope of its application to non-international armed conflicts. The Third Annual Conference of the States Parties to the 1980 Convention's amended Protocol on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) reaffirmed the States parties' commitment to restricting the use of, or outlawing, anti-personnel landmines.

In November, the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty called on signatory States to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

At the bilateral level, the Russian Federation and the United States conducted the last inspection pursuant to the provisions of the 1987 Treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces, under which they agreed to

eliminate their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles no later than three years after the Treaty's entry into force, and to conduct on-site inspections on each other's territory for 13 years. They also completed reductions of their respective nuclear arsenals, in accordance with the terms of the 1991 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I). During the year, both parties held discussions on additional reductions of their nuclear arsenals and on related strategic issues, including the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty). In December, the United States announced that it had decided to withdraw unilaterally from the ABM Treaty.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter VIII (pp. 525–579)

Other political and security questions

GENERAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 525: Support for democracies, 525. REGIONAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 527: South Atlantic, 527; Indian Ocean, 528. DECOLONIZATION, 529: Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 530; Puerto Rico, 541; Territories under review, 541. INFORMATION, 554: UN public information, 554; Information and communications in the context of international security, 565; Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, 566. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, 567: Implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations, 567; Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 568; Legal Subcommittee, 570. EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION, 574. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, 575.

United Nations consideration of other political and security questions in 2001 included the Organization's efforts to support and consolidate democratization worldwide, the promotion of decolonization, public information activities and the peaceful uses of outer space.

The first meeting of the follow-up mechanism to the Fourth (2000) International Conference of New or Restored Democracies agreed to draw up a comprehensive plan to implement the Cotonou Declaration on peace, security, democracy and development adopted at that Conference. Plans were under way for convening the Fifth International Conference in 2003.

The Secretary-General submitted an updated plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001- 2010), setting out action to be taken by the administering Powers, other Member States, the UN system and non-governmental organizations to support the process.

The Department of Public Information made considerable progress in reorienting the Organization's information and communications policies. The adoption of new technologies allowed for a wider dissemination of accurate information on the work of the Organization. A notable achievement in the reorientation process was the highly successful pilot project for direct international radio broadcasting from UN Headquarters.

In December, the General Assembly noted the establishment of action teams to implement the recommendations of the Third (1999) United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation process.

The Assembly further adopted a resolution on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, which encouraged the use of science and technology for peaceful purposes, and another on developments in information and telecommunications, calling on States to promote information security.

In September, the Assembly adopted a resolution declaring 21 September of each year as the International Day of Peace, to be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence.

Part Two: Human rights

Chapter I (pp. 579–613)

Promotion of human rights

UN MACHINERY, 579: Commission on Human Rights, 579; Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 580; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 580; Strengthening action to promote human rights, 581. HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS, 587: General aspects, 587; Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocols, 589; Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 590; Convention against racial discrimination, 593; Convention against torture, 594; Convention on elimination of discrimination against women and optional protocol, 595; Convention on the Rights of the Child, 595; Convention on migrant workers, 596; Convention on genocide, 597. OTHER ACTIVITIES, 597: Follow-up to 1993 World Conference, 597; Advisory services and technical cooperation, 598; Public information and human rights education, 604; Children and a culture of peace, 609; National institutions and regional arrangements, 610; Cooperation with UN human rights bodies, 613.

United Nations efforts to promote human rights continued in 2001 through the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary body, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued its human rights coordination and implementation activities, and the provision of advisory services and technical cooperation.

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

The Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon, established as a subregional office of OHCHR in cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States and the UN Department of Political Affairs, became operational in March.

Part Two: Human rights
Chapter II (pp. 614–696)
Protection of human rights

RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, 614: Third Decade against racism, 614. OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE, 621: Cultural prejudice, 621; Discrimination against minorities, 622; Religious intolerance, 626. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, 629: Right to self-determination, 629; Administration of justice, 633; Right to democracy, 639; Other issues, 642. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, 656: Right to development, 656; Extreme poverty, 668; Right to food, 669; Right to adequate housing, 671; Right to education, 672; Environmental and scientific concerns, 673; Slavery and related issues, 676; Vulnerable groups, 677.

In 2001, the protection of human rights—civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural—continued to be a major focus of UN activities.

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 31 August–8 September) adopted the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which pronounced slavery and the slave trade a crime against humanity, condemned racism and related practices, and committed the international community to combating the phenomena.

The International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, entered into force on 20 October. As at 31 December, 22 States were party to the Convention.

In November, the Security Council, expressing its determination to give the fullest attention to the protection of children in armed conflict, made a series of recommendations to parties to armed conflict and to Member States, as well as requests to the Secretary-General.

During the year, the Commission on Human Rights appointed a Special Rapporteur on the situation of indigenous peoples' human rights and fundamental freedoms. It appointed an independent expert to examine the existing international criminal and human rights framework to protect persons from involuntary disappearance and decided to establish a working group to develop a legally binding instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

Special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts of the Commission and its subsidiary body, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, examined, among other issues, allegations of torture; extralegal executions; impunity; mercenary activity; affirmative action; the rights of migrants; the independence of the judiciary; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of religion or belief; human rights and terrorism; internally displaced persons; globalization and its impact on human rights; extreme poverty; illicit practices related to toxic and dangerous products and wastes; bioethics; sexual violence during armed conflict; violence against women; the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the situation of children affected by armed conflict; persons with HIV/AIDS; and persons with disabilities.

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

Part Two: Human rights

Chapter III (pp. 696–741)

Human rights violations

GENERAL ASPECTS, 696. AFRICA, 696: Burundi, 696; Democratic Republic of the Congo, 697; Equatorial Guinea, 703; Rwanda, 704; Sierra Leone, 704; Sudan, 705; Togo, 710. AMERICAS, 710: Colombia, 710; Cuba, 712. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 712: Afghanistan, 712; Cambodia, 716; China, 716; East Timor, 716; Iran, 718; Iraq, 720; Myanmar, 723. EUROPE, 728: Cyprus, 728; The former Yugoslavia, 728; Russian Federation, 733. MIDDLE EAST, 734: Lebanon, 734; Territories occupied by Israel, 735.

Alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in a number of countries were examined in 2001 by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, as well as by special rapporteurs, special representatives of the Secretary-General and independent experts appointed to examine the allegations.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter I (pp. 741–779)

Development policy and international economic cooperation

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 741: Development and international economic cooperation, 741; Sustainable development, 747; Eradication of poverty, 752; Science and technology for development, 757. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS, 765. DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 767: Committee for Development Policy, 767; Public administration, 768. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 769: Least developed countries, 769; Island developing countries, 775; Landlocked developing countries, 777.

In 2001, the world economy took an unexpectedly severe and widespread downturn. Following an unprecedented period of growth, the slowdown began in the developed economies, particularly North America, but quickly spread around the world through global trade, finance and investment links. The pervasive slowdown, aggravated by the terrorist attacks against the United States in September, led to a substantial decline in global growth from 4 per cent in 2000 to about 1.4 per cent in 2001. Growth in the developed economies was the lowest in a decade, as was annual average growth in the developing countries, with the exception of the year following the Asian crisis. The economies in transition exhibited greater resilience but their average growth also declined during the year.

The global decline took on a particular significance in the context of increasing economic globalization and interdependence, which were important themes of deliberations within the major UN organs in 2001. The General Assembly's second high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, which took place in September, focused on responding to globalization by promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy and enhancing their integration into the emerging global information network. The Assembly also addressed the role of the United Nations in the context of globalization, as well as the importance of promoting global partnerships, particularly with the private sector. The Economic and Social Council adopted agreed conclusions on the role of the United Nations and the importance of relevant partnerships in promoting development, particularly through access to and transfer of information technologies. In April, the Commission on Sustainable Development examined the impact of economic globalization on sustainable development, with particular reference to developing countries. Also in April, the Committee for Development Policy considered economic governance responsibilities in the context of a globalizing world.

In May, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) adopted the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, an updated set of commitments and measures for improving the lives of the 600 million people living in 49 LDCs worldwide.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter II (pp. 780–822)

Operational activities for development

SYSTEM-WIDE ACTIVITIES, 780. TECHNICAL COOPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 792: UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, 793; UNDP operational activities, 793; Programme planning and management, 798; Financing, 805. OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION, 809: UN activities, 809; UN Office for Project Services, 811; UN Volunteers, 814; Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, 818; UN Capital Development Fund, 822.

In 2001, the United Nations system continued to provide development assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, primarily through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the central United Nations funding body for technical assistance. UNDP's income in 2001 totalled \$2,828 million, up from \$2,555 million in 2000. That included, for the first time in eight years, a slight increase in regular resources. Total expenditure for all programme activities and support costs reached \$2,725 million in 2001 as compared with \$2,514 million the previous year. Other technical cooperation, totalling \$51.1 million, was provided through the executive programme of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, \$105.7 million through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and \$28.6 million through the UN Capital Development Fund. In addition, some \$8.9 million had been spent as at 31 March under the UN Development Account.

In 2001, the United Nations conducted a triennial comprehensive policy review of UN system operational activities for development. The review analysed the advances made in and challenges facing UN development cooperation, particularly in view of new global economic trends, and made recommendations on the role and responsibilities of the UN system for development. The review also provided an opportunity for the United Nations to assess its own progress in fulfilling the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which included set targets for operational activities for development. In December, the General Assembly adopted a far-reaching outline for future development activities of the UN system.

UNDP and its associated funds and programmes continued to make progress in enhancing their overall development impact. UNDP activities were focused on six major goals—sustainable human development, poverty reduction, the environment, gender equality, special development situations and support of the UN system.

The United Nations Office for Project Services, which continued to operate under the self-financing principle with no assessed budget financing, had a total value of project and loan portfolios of \$3.7 billion in 2001, comprising \$1.4 billion in project value and \$2.3 billion in loans under its supervision. Total project delivery was \$505 million.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, administered by UNDP, continued to grow in 2001, with over 5,000 volunteers carrying out some 5,400 assignments. Growth was strongest in the number of volunteers serving in UN peacekeeping operations. The United Nations observed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers; UNV served as focal point for the related activities. The Assembly, in December, made recommendations on ways Governments and the UN system could support volunteering.

The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), in May/June, reviewed progress made in implementing the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing TCDC and progress in implementing the new directions strategy for TCDC. In December, the Assembly noted the expanded use of SouthSouth cooperation and urged developing countries to intensify technical and economic cooperation at the regional and interregional levels, particularly in information and communication technologies.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter III (pp. 823–871)

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, 823: Coordination, 823; Resource mobilization, 826; White Helmets, 826; Mine clearance, 827; Humanitarian activities, 831. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 847: African economic recovery and development, 847; Other economic assistance, 854. DISASTER RELIEF, 858: International cooperation, 859; International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, 861; Disaster assistance, 866.

In 2001, the United Nations, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), continued to coordinate the response of humanitarian agencies, particularly those of the UN system, to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies, promote preparedness and prevention, and facilitate sustainable solutions. The 2001 consolidated inter-agency appeals process was launched globally under the theme “Women and war”. During the year, appeals were launched for Angola, Burundi, the northern Caucasus, the Congo, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, the Maluku islands of Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South-Eastern Europe, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and West Africa. The total sought amounted to \$2,559 million, of which \$1,415 million was received, meeting 55.3 per cent of requirements. In addition, an inter-agency appeal covering Afghanistan for 2001, which sought \$332.6 million, received contributions of \$150 million, or 45.1 per cent of requirements. In September, a donor alert for Afghanistan, appealing for \$662 million and covering October 2001 to March 2002, replaced the appeal; it received contributions of \$496 million, or 75 per cent of requirements.

OCHA reported contributions to cover assistance in 2001 for natural disasters totalling \$332 million, excluding in-kind contributions and services, for 49 situations in 36 countries and two regions. Through the Response Coordination and Emergency Services Branches, OCHA mobilized and coordinated assistance to 67 natural disasters.

The United Nations mine-action policy document, which continued to guide UN agencies and their partners in implementing their mine-action responsibilities, was further developed in 2001. In October, the Secretary-General presented the United Nations mine-action strategy for 2001- 2005, intended to turn the policy into concrete action. He also outlined the United Nations policy on information management for mine action.

During the year, preparations were under way for the final review and appraisal in 2002 of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IV (pp. 872–896)

International trade, finance and transport

INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 872: Trade policy, 874; Trade promotion and facilitation, 876; Commodities, 879. FINANCE, 881: Financial policy, 881; Financing for development, 886; Investment, technology and related financial issues, 890. TRANSPORT, 892: Maritime transport, 892; Transport of dangerous goods, 892. UNCTAD INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS, 893: UNCTAD programme, 893.

The collapse in growth of international trade, exacerbated by the disruption caused by the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States, was the key feature of the economic slowdown of 2001. The international economic environment deteriorated, particularly for many developing countries and countries in transition. Net financial flows to those countries remained at a low level, the external financing conditions for them were more stringent and total flows of foreign direct investment fell. Developments during the year underlined the high degree of interdependence between developed and developing countries, as well as the need for further reforms in the international trade and financial systems.

Preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development gathered momentum. In March, the General Assembly accepted Mexico's offer to host the Conference and, in July, decided that it would be held in Monterrey from 18 to 22 March 2002. Also in July, the Assembly decided that, in addition to States Members and observers of the United Nations and specialized agencies, Conference participation should include all relevant stakeholders, the business sector and civil society.

In other action on financial issues, the Assembly, in December, stressed the importance of continued substantive consideration of the international financial system and the external debt crisis in the context of development.

The high-level meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), which took place in May, considered development financing, in particular poverty eradication, official development assistance and debt; and public and private responsibility in the prevention of financial crises. In November, the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) launched a work programme addressing the challenges facing the multilateral trading system.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) issued a number of publications during the year, including the Trade and Development Report, 2001, which focused on the reform of the international financial architecture. Other major publications included World Investment Report 2001: Promoting Linkages and the E-Commerce and Development Report 2000. The Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD's governing body, reviewed the work of its three subsidiary bodies—the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues; and the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. It also carried out a review of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities.

The International Trade Centre, operated jointly by UNCTAD and WTO, increased its technical cooperation activities, providing support to 124 developing countries and transitional economies, including 42 least developed countries. It extended capacity-building to national networks and launched an e-facilitated trade development strategy.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter V (pp. 897–930)

Regional economic and social activities

REGIONAL COOPERATION, 897. AFRICA, 898: Economic trends, 898; Activities in 2001, 899; Programme, administration and organizational questions, 905; Regional cooperation, 905. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 907: Economic trends, 907; Activities in 2001, 908; Programme and organizational questions, 914; Subregional activities, 914. EUROPE, 916: Economic trends, 917; Activities in 2001, 919; Operational activities, 921; Intersectoral activities and cross-sectoral concerns, 921. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 921: Economic trends, 921; Activities in 2001, 922; Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, 925. WESTERN ASIA, 926: Economic and social trends, 926; Activities in 2001, 927; Programme and organizational questions, 929.

The five regional commissions continued to provide technical cooperation, including advisory services, to their member States, promote programmes and projects, and provide training to enhance national capacity-building in various sectors. Four of them held regular sessions during the year: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) did not meet in 2001 but was scheduled to meet in May 2002.

In 2001, ECA took the lead in promoting an African-developed and -led programme for development, which was adopted by African heads of State and Government as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, designed to eradicate poverty and to place African countries on a path of sustainable growth and development. The General Assembly endorsed the Partnership and called on the international community to provide financial support for its implementation. It also reviewed implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Decade for Africa (1993- 2002).

The Assembly recommended the promotion of further cooperation between the United Nations and a number of regional organizations. The Economic and Social Council established the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation of ESCWA, and further encouraged the investigation into a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VI (pp. 931–941)

Energy, natural resources and cartography

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, 931: Energy, 931; Natural resources, 939. CARTOGRAPHY, 940.

The conservation, development and use of natural resources and energy were considered by several United Nations bodies in 2001, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, which held a high-level segment during its ninth session that gave special attention to energy issues. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development did not meet in 2001.

During the year, action was taken to promote new and renewable sources of energy, including the effective implementation of and mobilization of resources for the World Solar Programme 1996-2005. In December, the General Assembly encouraged Governments and relevant stakeholders to make more use of the Programme to boost the development and utilization of solar energy and all forms of new and renewable energy.

Addressing the Assembly in October, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency noted that nuclear power was the principal alternative to fossil fuels that could in the foreseeable future provide electricity on a large scale with practically no greenhouse gas emissions. In December, the Assembly affirmed its confidence in the Agency's role in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 continued through the interagency coordinating body for the Year, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Water Resources, which met in September.

The recommendations of the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, which was held in New York in January, were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in July.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VII (pp. 942–990)

Environment and human settlements

ENVIRONMENT, 943: UN Environment Programme, 943; International conventions and mechanisms, 954; Environmental activities, 961. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 973: Follow-up to the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), 973; Commission on Human Settlements, 983; UN Centre for Human Settlements, 985.

In 2001, the United Nations and the international community continued efforts to protect the environment through legally binding instruments and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The second Global Ministerial Environment Forum/twenty-first session of the UNEP Governing Council (Nairobi, Kenya, 5-9 February) adopted decisions related to various aspects of the global ecosystem. During the Council's session, Governments expressed increasing concern that the current governance structures did not meet the needs of the environmental agenda. Thus, the Council initiated a review process on international environmental governance, which was aimed at a new model predicated on the need for sustainable development that met the interrelated social, economic and environmental requirements.

The United Nations Forum on Forests, a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council established to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end, at its first session (New York, 11-12 June), adopted its multiyear programme of work for 2001-2005 and plan of action, and outlined the functions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, which was adopted at a meeting of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Stockholm, Sweden, 22-23 May), was opened for signature on 23 May in Stockholm and at UN Headquarters from 24 May 2001 to 22 May 2002. The Convention set out control measures on the production, import, export, disposal and use of an initial list of 12 persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and included measures to reduce or eliminate the production and use of intentionally produced POPs; eliminate unintentionally produced POPs; and manage stockpiles and dispose of POP waste in an environmentally sound manner. The resumed sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn, Germany, 16-27 July) adopted the core elements for the implementation of the 1998 Buenos Aires Plan of Action to reduce the risk of global climate change (the Bonn Agreements), which provided for the establishment of two new funds to assist developing countries in adaptation, technology transfer and emissions reduction, and assist least developed countries in Convention implementation. At its seventh session (Marrakesh, Morocco, 29 October–10 November), the Conference adopted the Marrakesh Accords on modalities, guidelines and mechanisms to facilitate the entry into force of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which aimed to reduce industrialized countries' greenhouse gas emissions. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Parties to the 1985 Montreal Protocol (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 16-19 October) adopted the Colombo Declaration on Renewed Commitment to the Protection of the Ozone Layer to Mark the Forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2002, the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and the Tenth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Multilateral Fund.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a four-year international collaborative effort to evaluate the state of the major ecosystems (forests, freshwater systems, grasslands, coastal areas, agroecosystems) was launched in 2001 as part of the observance of World Environment Day on 5 June.

The General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict and invited Member States, UN system entities and other organizations to observe the Day. The General Assembly convened its twentyfifth special session (New York, 6-9 June) to review and appraise the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, a global call to

action that offered a vision of adequate shelter for all and the sustainable development of human settlements, adopted by the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). The Assembly adopted the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, by which participants reaffirmed their commitment to the Habitat Agenda, presented an assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and proposed further action. In February, the Commission on Human Settlements, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the special session, held its second session and also convened its eighteenth regular session, during which it adopted 12 resolutions.

In December, the Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, with effect from 1 January 2002, into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which would function as a subsidiary organ of the Assembly. The former Commission would serve as the UN-Habitat Governing Council.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VIII (pp. 991–1002)

Population

FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1994 CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, 991. UN POPULATION FUND, 995. OTHER POPULATION ACTIVITIES, 1000.

As the world's population reached 6.1 billion in 2001, the population activities of the United Nations continued to be guided by the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the largest internationally funded source of population assistance, was the lead UN organization for advancing the ICPD Programme of Action. UNFPA's third Executive Director, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, took office in January and developed a transition plan that had five principal aims: to develop and implement a strategic vision of the Fund's goal and operations; to realign the Fund's structure to provide greater and more effective support to the field; to invest in and develop UNFPA staff; to improve knowledge sharing and communications, both within UNFPA and between the Fund and its partners; and to increase the visibility of UNFPA and its achievements.

The Commission on Population and Development, in April, considered the central theme of population, environment and development. It adopted a resolution on the subject, which it brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. Other matters before the Commission included the flow of financial resources to implement the ICPD Programme of Action, world demographic trends and the activities of the UN Population Division.

The Population Division continued to analyse world demographic trends and population policies. New publications included *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision*.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IX (pp. 1003–1053)

Social policy, crime prevention and human resources development

SOCIAL POLICY AND CULTURAL ISSUES, 1003: Social development, 1003; UN Research Institute for Social Development, 1007; Follow-up to International Year of the Family, 1008; Persons with disabilities, 1009; Cultural development, 1013. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 1021: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 1021; UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, 1031; Transnational crime, 1035; Strategies for crime prevention, 1041; UN standards and norms, 1046. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, 1047. UN research and training institutes, 1049; Education for all, 1051.

In 2001, the United Nations continued to promote the advancement of social, cultural and human resources development, and to strengthen its crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

In February, the Commission for Social Development considered measures for implementing the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twentyfourth (2000) special session to review and appraise implementation of the outcome of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. The Assembly, in 2001, addressed follow-up to the World Summit and the special session and took action regarding other social issues, including the implementation of the 1982 World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and preparations for the tenth anniversary of the 1994 International Year of the Family.

The Assembly devoted two plenary meetings to the observance of the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (2001), at the close of which it proclaimed the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations. The Assembly also proclaimed 2002 as the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage and addressed the question of the return or restitution of cultural properties. As part of UN efforts to enhance respect for cultural diversity, the Assembly adopted resolutions on the protection of religious sites, the destruction of relics and monuments in Afghanistan and the building of a better world through sports and the Olympic ideal.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice finalized draft plans of action for the implementation of the 2000 Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, which the Economic and Social Council endorsed and recommended to the Assembly for adoption. An intergovernmental expert group commenced work on drafting an international legal instrument against corruption. In May, the Assembly adopted and opened for signature the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition to the 2000 United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. In December, the Assembly called for the early ratification of the Convention and related protocols.

In continuing efforts to achieve the global goal of education for all, the Assembly, in December, proclaimed the 10-year period beginning 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade. In its resolution on the University for Peace, it invited all peoples to celebrate One Day in Peace on 1 January 2002 and every year thereafter.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter X (pp. 1054–1089)

Women

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND BEIJING+5, 1054. UN MACHINERY, 1074: Convention on elimination of discrimination against women, 1074; Commission on the Status of Women, 1076; UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), 1085; International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW), 1087.

During 2001, United Nations efforts to advance the status of women and ensure their rights continued to be guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women. That guidance was augmented by the political declaration and further action and initiatives adopted in 2000 at the General Assembly's twenty-third special session to appraise and assess implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+5).

The Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly considered follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Beijing+5. In a December resolution, the Assembly called on Governments, the UN system and civil society, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), to take action to achieve full and effective implementation of the outcomes of the Beijing Conference and the special session.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-fifth session in March and May, recommended to the Council for adoption agreed conclusions on its two thematic issues: women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS; and gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Council endorsed the agreed conclusions in July. Also on the Commission's recommendation, the Council adopted resolutions on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan; and mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system. It also adopted a multi-year programme of work for the Commission for 2002-2006. The Commission adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those imprisoned during armed conflict, and the 2002-2005 system wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women continued to focus on women's economic and political empowerment and to advocate for gender equality. In December, the Assembly urged Member States, NGOs and the private sector to continue to contribute to the Fund. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on the situation of older women; traditional and customary practices affecting the health of women and girls; women in development; and violence against migrant women, among others.

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which announced the completion of phases I and II of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System, and the initiation of phase III, continued to suffer from financial insecurity throughout the year. In December, the Assembly decided to establish a working group to consider the Institute's future operations.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XI (pp. 1090–1105)

Children, youth and ageing persons

CHILDREN, 1090: United Nations Children's Fund, 1090. YOUTH, 1099. AGEING PERSONS, 1102: Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002), 1102.

In 2001, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its efforts to secure the best possible start in life for every child, collaborating with multisectoral partners to ensure that all children could begin life healthy and cared for and receive education, in order to develop to their optimal potential, safe from abuse and exploitation.

UNICEF spent much of the year preparing for the United Nations General Assembly's special session on children, which, because of the 11 September terrorist attacks in New York, had to be postponed from 2001 until May 2002. In the context of the Global Movement for Children, UNICEF and key partners galvanized the support of people around the world for the cause of children, so that their voices could be heard at the special session.

In addition to being guided by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which established international standards of behaviour towards children, UNICEF's efforts were also in accordance with its medium-term plan for 1998-2001. The four core organizational priorities for that period were: enhancing partnerships and promoting advocacy on children's rights; enhancing the survival, development, protection and participation of children; improving the availability and use of data in critical areas; and strengthening management and operations. In 2001, the UNICEF Executive Board approved the medium-term strategic plan for the period 2002-2005, which established five organizational priorities: girls' education; fighting HIV/AIDS; integrated early childhood development; immunization "plus"; and improved protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination.

Important developments in favour of children's rights during 2001 included the deposit of sufficient ratifications of the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, for them to enter into force in 2002 (see p. 595).

United Nations policies and programmes focusing on youth in 2001 strengthened the implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. The Youth Employment Network, formed by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the International Labour Organization and the World Bank, appointed a high-level panel, which prepared policy recommendations for national action and established four top priorities: employability; equal opportunity for young men and women; entrepreneurship; and employment creation. The fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Dakar, Senegal, August) adopted the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy, which set out priority areas of action and interest adopted by young people themselves.

In preparation for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in 2002, the Commission for Social Development, acting as preparatory committee, held three sessions. The central task of the Second World Assembly would be to revise the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the first World Assembly in 1982.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XII (pp. 1106–1124)

Refugees and displaced persons

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, 1106: Programme policy, 1106; Financial and administrative questions, 1110. REFUGEE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE, 1112: Protection issues, 1112; Assistance measures, 1114; Regional activities, 1116.

In 2001, the total number of persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) throughout the world fell to 19.8 million, from 21.1 million in 2000. Over 12 million (60 per cent) of the total were refugees, 5.3 million were internally displaced persons, 925,677 were asylum-seekers, 703,558 returned to their places of origin and the remaining 1 million included forced migrants and stateless people.

Although there were no major refugee emergencies on the scale of those of the 1990s, UNHCR still faced major challenges concerning refugee protection. The military action in Afghanistan following the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States led to the return of hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan. However, the impact of those events also fuelled intolerance and distrust of aliens, including refugees and asylum-seekers. In tackling those challenges, UNHCR emphasized the need to secure refugee protection by facilitating durable solutions, such as voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement whenever possible.

Although Africa's refugee population fell by almost 10 per cent in 2001, the continent's 3.1 million refugees still accounted for approximately 30 per cent of the global refugee population at the end of the year. The main countries of origin of refugees were Angola, Burundi and the Sudan, while the host countries of the largest refugee populations were the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania. The main refugee returns in the region in 2001 were Burundians, Eritreans, Sierra Leoneans and Somalis.

The prime focus in Central and South America remained the protracted armed conflict in Colombia, which had uprooted some 700,000 people, most of them forced into the neighbouring countries of Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela.

In South Asia, peace initiatives in Sri Lanka raised hopes for durable solutions for the estimated 700,000 internally displaced Sri Lankans and the 64,000 refugees in India. However, there was only minimal progress on the situation of the 110,000 Bhutanese, one of the largest refugee groups in the region, who had been in Nepalese camps for over 10 years. The protection of asylum-seekers was the dominant issue in East Asia and the Pacific, where there was a general narrowing of access to asylum. As East Timor moved closer to independence, UNHCR initiated negotiations with the Indonesian Government for the local settlement of some 50,000 East Timorese remaining there. In Central and South-West Asia, UNHCR's main focus was on Afghanistan and surrounding countries following the military intervention. UNHCR provided relief for the estimated 200,000 Afghans who fled to Pakistan in 2001, in addition to the over 2 million who were already in camps in Iran and Pakistan.

The main challenge in Western Europe continued to be the maintenance of access for asylum seekers. Close to 420,000 applications for asylum were made in a context of reinforced legislation against irregular migration, people smuggling and trafficking, and of security concerns. In Eastern Europe, UNHCR focused on finding durable solutions for those displaced by protracted conflicts in the Caucasus.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, UNHCR convened, in December, the first meeting of States parties to the Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which adopted a landmark declaration reinforcing commitment to those two instruments. During the course of the year, UNHCR continued to hold meetings within the framework of the Global Consultations on International Protection, launched in 2000. It also took steps to sharpen its focus and strengthen its capacity to meet future challenges. A review of priorities and fund-raising efforts resulted in

the reduction of UNHCR's 2001 budget by some 10 per cent and the number of staff posts by 16 per cent.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIII (pp. 1125–1142)

Health, food and nutrition

HEALTH, 1125: AIDS prevention and control, 1125; Tobacco, 1138; Interagency coordination in health policy, 1138; Other diseases, 1138. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 1141: Food aid, 1141; Food security, 1141. NUTRITION, 1142.

In 2001, the United Nations continued to promote human health, coordinate food aid and food security and support research in nutrition.

At the end of the year, some 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, about one third of whom were between the ages of 15 and 24. During the year, approximately 5 million people became infected, 800,000 of them children. The General Assembly's special session on HIV/AIDS (New York, 25-27 June) was seen as the first step in the realization of the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000, in which the world's leaders resolved to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. The Declaration of Commitment, adopted at the special session, represented a watershed in the history of the epidemic, establishing, for the first time, time-bound targets on prevention, care, support and treatment, impact alleviation, and children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

In September, the Assembly proclaimed the period 2001-2010 the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. In July, the Economic and Social Council called for support to the Organization of African Unity plan of action to achieve the goal of the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign initiative. Regarding tobacco control, work progressed on the drafting of a framework convention on tobacco control and related protocols.

The World Food Programme—a joint undertaking of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—provided food aid to 77 million people, supplying a record level of 4.2 million tons of such aid. FAO continued to implement the plan of action adopted at the 1996 World Food Summit and the FAO Council approved a proposal to convene, in June 2002, a review of the 1996 Summit.

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Chapter XIV (pp. 1143–1172)

International drug control

FOLLOW-UP TO THE TWENTIETH SPECIAL SESSION, 1143. CONVENTIONS, 1148: International Narcotics Control Board, 1151. WORLD DRUG SITUATION, 1153. UN ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE, 1161: UN International Drug Control Programme, 1161; Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 1168; Strengthening UN mechanisms, 1172.

During 2001, the United Nations, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), renewed its commitment to strengthen international cooperation and increase efforts to counter the world drug problem, in accordance with the obligations of States under the United Nations drug control conventions and on the basis of the outcome of the General Assembly's twentieth special session, held in 1998. Activities focused mainly on implementation of the 1999 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which served as a guide to Member States in adopting strategies and programmes for reducing illicit drug demand in order to achieve significant results by 2008.

UNDCP stimulated action at the national, regional and international levels through technical cooperation programmes and supported the international community in implementing the strategy agreed upon by the Assembly at its special session. It assisted States in complying with international treaties and supported national efforts and initiatives to reduce or eliminate illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis through alternative development, and to strengthen national capacities in demand reduction and institution-building.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs—the main UN policy-making body dealing with drug control—addressed a number of issues and adopted resolutions on the reduction of the demand for illicit drugs, illicit drug trafficking and supply, and implementation of the Global Programme of Action and international treaties. In July, the Economic and Social Council urged Governments to continue contributing to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific needs, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials.

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

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XV (pp. 1173–1181)

Statistics

WORK OF STATISTICAL COMMISSION, 1173: Economic statistics, 1174; Demographic and social statistics, 1175; Other statistical activities, 1176.

In 2001, the United Nations continued its statistical work programme. In March, the 24-member Statistical Commission endorsed the proposed new approach developed by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts for a better and more comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993; welcomed the publication of a handbook on the measurement of capital stocks and flows; and adopted the draft manual on statistics of international trade in services. The Commission reviewed the work of a number of established bodies and international organizations in various areas of economic, social and environment statistics and made specific recommendations and suggestions.

The Commission agreed with the proposed time frame for updating the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification by 2002 and for planning their revision by 2007.

The Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination met in September.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter I (pp. 1181–1197)
International Court of Justice

Judicial work of the Court, 1181; Other questions, 1195.

In 2001, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered three Judgments, made 18 Orders and had 25 contentious cases pending before it.

On 31 October, the ICJ President informed the General Assembly that the Court's docket remained overburdened and that solutions would have to be found to avoid excessive delays in examining cases that were ready to be heard. Noting that administrative and procedural efforts made by the Court to redress the situation would not be sufficient, he appealed to the Assembly to ensure the financial and human resources required for the Court to perform its duties properly. The President stated that ICJ could play an important role in preventing conflicts, particularly territorial ones, and encouraged States to refer their disputes to the Court by way of Special Agreement.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter II (pp. 1198–1212)
International tribunals and court

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, 1198: The Chambers, 1198; Office of the Prosecutor, 1204; The Registry, 1204; Temporal jurisdiction of ICTY, 1204; Financing, 1205. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA, 1207: The Chambers, 1207; Office of the Prosecutor, 1210; The Registry, 1210; Financing, 1210. FUNCTIONING OF THE TRIBUNALS, 1212: OIOS, 1212.

In 2001, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (ICTY) increased its judicial activity and, for the first time, entered a conviction for genocide. The Tribunal implemented reforms to fulfil its mandate more expeditiously and, in that regard, the General Assembly, in June, elected 27 ad litem judges, who would serve with the permanent judges on a case-by-case basis. Permanent judges were elected for a four-year term commencing on 17 November.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (ICTR) was actively engaged in conducting trials. It also adopted measures either to remedy perceived problems or to increase its efficiency. The Trial Chambers delivered one judgement and the Appeals Chamber gave final judgement in three cases.

Part Four: Legal questions

Chapter III (pp. 1213–1230)

Legal aspects of international political relations

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, 1213. INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION, 1216: State responsibility, 1217; International liability, 1223; Unilateral acts of States, 1223. INTERNATIONAL STATE RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1224: Jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, 1224; International terrorism, 1224; Safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, 1227. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 1228: Protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, 1228. TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS, 1229.

During 2001, the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court, created by the 1998 United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court to make arrangements for the coming into operation of the Court, made significant progress in drafting the instruments essential for the Court's functioning. Its report for the year contained the draft texts of the Relationship Agreement between the Court and the United Nations, the Financial Regulations, the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court, and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of States Parties. The Netherlands, host country of the Court, had chosen a site for the Court's future headquarters and was making temporary premises ready for its use in the interim. The General Assembly welcomed the progress made and called on all States that had signed the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to consider ratifying or acceding to it without delay.

The Assembly expressed appreciation to the International Law Commission (ILC) for the work it had accomplished during its 2001 session in the codification and progressive development of international law, in particular for its completion of the final draft articles on "Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts", which it commended to the attention of Governments. The Assembly further expressed appreciation for ILC's valuable work on the prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities (a sub-topic of international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law), the draft texts of the preamble and 19 articles, which ILC had also completed and adopted.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the convention for suppression of nuclear terrorism continued, within the framework of a working group of the Assembly's Sixth (Legal) Committee, to elaborate a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, to resolve outstanding issues relating to the preparation of a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, and to keep on its agenda the possible convening of a high-level conference under UN auspices to formulate a joint international response to terrorism.

The Security Council and the Assembly strongly condemned the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States, and called for international cooperation to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of those outrages. Subsequently, the Council specified a number of measures addressed to States to help eliminate international terrorism. Disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts worldwide, the Assembly also urged all States that had not done so, to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to relevant conventions and protocols relating to the prevention, suppression and financing of terrorism.

Concerned by the increasing dangers and security risks faced by UN and associated personnel in the field, the Assembly also called on all States to consider becoming parties to the relevant international instruments, in particular the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter IV (pp. 1231–1241)
Law of the Sea

UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, 1231: Institutions created by the Convention, 1235; Other developments related to the Convention, 1236; Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, 1241.

During 2001, the United Nations continued to promote the universal acceptance of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the two related Agreements. The three institutions created by the Convention—the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf—held sessions during the year.

Two Agreements dealing with aspects of the Convention entered into force in 2001, one on the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and the other on privileges and immunities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter V (pp. 1242–1276)
Other legal questions

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1242: Strengthening the role of the United Nations, 1242; UN Programme for the teaching and study of international law, 1249; Host country relations, 1251. INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1254: International bioethics law, 1254. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, 1255: International trade law, 1255.

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization continued in 2001 to consider, among its other standing agenda items, proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in order to strengthen the Organization and, as a priority, the implementation of Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII. In that connection, the Security Council, in October, discussed general issues relating to sanctions aimed at, not only improving the effectiveness of UN sanctions, but also reducing their negative effects on civilian populations and on third States.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country continued to address complaints raised by permanent missions to the United Nations relating to the maintenance of conditions for the proper functioning of those missions. The General Assembly requested the host country (the United States) to consider, among other measures, removing travel controls on permanent mission and Secretariat staff of certain nationalities, issuing entry visas in a timely manner to representatives of Member States for the purpose of attending UN official meetings and taking steps to resolve the problem relating to the parking of diplomatic vehicles.

During the year, two instruments emanated from the continuing work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) aimed at the global unification and harmonization of international trade law: the draft Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade; and the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Signatures, together with the Guide to Enactment of the Model Law. On 12 December, the Assembly took note of UNCITRAL's completion and adoption of those instruments, recommended that all States give favourable consideration to the Model Law and Guide to Enactment when enacting or revising their laws, and adopted and opened the Convention for signature or accession.

In other action, the Assembly, concerned at the recently disclosed information on ongoing research into the reproductive cloning of human beings, established an ad hoc committee to consider the elaboration of an international convention against such cloning.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter I (pp. 1277–1292)

Strengthening and restricting of the United Nations system

PROGRAMME OF REFORM, 1277: General aspects, 1277; Managerial reform and oversight, 1279. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY, 1287: Strengthening of the UN system, 1287; Review of Security Council membership and related matters, 1289; Revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 1289.

In 2001, further progress was made in implementing the Secretary-General's programme of reform of the Organization, as Member States endorsed proposals in the priority areas of human resources reform, information technology policy and the capital master plan for refurbishing the UN Headquarters complex. Procurement reform had been completed successfully, the streamlining of the Organization's rules and procedures progressed, efforts continued to shift to a more results-based mode of operation and performance indicators were being introduced at all levels.

As follow-up to the outcome of the 2000 Millennium Summit, the Secretary-General presented a "road map" towards the implementation of the goals and commitments made by Member States in the Millennium Declaration, which the General Assembly recommended should be considered as a useful guide when formulating plans for implementing those goals. The Assembly also took up the issue of revitalizing its work through improvement of its procedures and working methods and adopted a text addressing relevant issues concerning its agenda, consideration of reports, organization of work, role of the Assembly President and the use of modern technology.

The Secretary-General reported on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, describing progress in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and recommending measures for further progress. He also reviewed the work of UN oversight bodies—the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Joint Inspection Unit—and reported continuing progress in ongoing discussions on increasing the membership of the Security Council within the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council. A review of the outcome of the consolidation of the three former economic and social departments into the Department of Economic and Social Affairs confirmed that the emergent Department had made notable progress in implementing the goals for which it was established.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter II (pp. 1293–1328)

United Nations financing and programming

FINANCIAL SITUATION, 1293. UN BUDGET, 1294: Budget for 2000-2001, 1294; Budget for 2002-2003, 1296. CONTRIBUTIONS, 1322: Assessments, 1323. ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING, 1326: Administrative and budgetary coordination, 1328. PROGRAMME PLANNING, 1328.

The overall financial situation of the United Nations during 2001 was significantly more positive than for a number of years, reflecting higher aggregate cash, lower unpaid assessments and reduced debt owed by the Organization to Member States. Unpaid assessments were 7 per cent lower than in 2000, at \$2,106 million, and amounts due to Member States for troops and contingent owned equipment, at \$748 million, were down 18 per cent from 2000.

The General Assembly, in December, adopted revised budget appropriations for the 2000-2001 biennium of \$2,561,578,000, an increase of \$28,452,600 over the initial approved appropriations of \$2,533,125,400. It approved appropriations of \$2,625,178,700 for the 2002-2003 biennium.

The Committee on Contributions continued to review the methodology for preparing the scale of assessments of Member States' contributions to the UN budget, including a methodology for assessing contributions of non-member States, as well as measures to encourage the timely payment of assessed contributions. It also continued to examine proposals relating to the procedural aspects for considering requests for exemptions under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations. In December, the Secretary General brought to the Assembly's attention the question of the payment of the arrears of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, following the admission in 2000 of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to UN membership.

The Assembly accepted the audited financial statements of the Board of Auditors on UN peacekeeping operations. It also accepted the financial reports and audited financial statements and audit opinions of the Board on the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The Assembly changed the term of office of the members of the Board of Auditors from the current three years to a non-consecutive term of six years' duration starting on 1 July 2002.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter III (pp. 1329–1358)

United Nations staff

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL, 1329. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, 1330: International Civil Service Commission, 1330; Remuneration issues, 1332; Other remuneration issues, 1334. OTHER STAFF MATTERS, 1336: Personnel policies and practices, 1336; UN Joint Staff Pension Fund, 1357; Travel-related matters, 1357; Administration of justice, 1358.

In 2001, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan (Ghana) was appointed for a second fiveyear term, effective 1 January 2002. In October, the Secretary-General and the United Nations were awarded the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize (see p. 46), which, according to the Security Council President, reflected the high esteem shared by people throughout the world for the SecretaryGeneral and honoured his exceptional achievements and those of the United Nations itself.

The General Assembly, through the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), reviewed the conditions of service of the staff of the UN common system. It adopted ICSC recommendations relating to the draft standards of conduct for the international civil service, the implications for the UN system of the introduction in 2002 of the euro as the national currency in the 12 euro-zone countries of the European Union and the base/floor salary scale. The Assembly also took action on the conditions of service for ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and continued to consider the proposed review and strengthening of ICSC as part of ongoing initiatives for UN reform.

The Secretary-General reported on the comprehensive review of the conditions of service of judges of the International Court of Justice, ICTY and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, staff composition, gratis personnel, consultants and individual contractors, the status of women in the Secretariat, multilingualism, regulations governing the status, rights and duties of non-Secretariat officials and experts on mission, staff rules and regulations, staff safety and security, young professionals, mandatory age of separation, the United Nations System Staff College and adherence to regulations governing standards of accommodation for air travel of UN officials.

The Joint Inspection Unit examined policies and practices regarding the recruitment and management of entry-level professionals in selected organizations of the common system.

In continuing efforts to enhance the security and safety of UN staff and associated humanitarian personnel, the Assembly underlined the need to allocate adequate and predictable resources towards that end and requested the Secretary-General to ensure the human rights, privileges and immunities of UN and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a UN operation. In other action, the Assembly adopted the statute of the United Nations System Staff College.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter IV (pp. 1359–1397)

Institutional and administrative matters

INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY, 1359: General Assembly, 1359; Security Council, 1362; Economic and Social Council, 1363. COORDINATION, MONITORING AND COOPERATION, 1364: Institutional mechanisms, 1364; Other coordination matters, 1366. THE UN AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, 1368: Cooperation with organizations, 1368; Observer status, 1374; Participation of organizations in UN work, 1376. CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 1377. UN INFORMATION SYSTEMS, 1387. OTHER MATTERS, 1391: Common services, 1391; UN premises and property, 1395; Security, 1397.

In 2001, the United Nations addressed a number of institutional and administrative matters to ensure its efficient functioning. The General Assembly commenced its fifty-sixth session on 12 September. Earlier in the year, the Assembly resumed its fifty-fifth session, convened its twenty fifth (6-9 June) and twenty-sixth (25-27 June) special sessions and resumed its tenth emergency special session. The Assembly granted observer status to the International Development Law Institute, the International Hydrographic Organization and the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States. It also adopted a number of measures to improve its efficiency.

During the year, the Security Council held 192 formal meetings to deal with regional conflicts, peacekeeping operations and a wide variety of other issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Assembly again examined the question of expanding the Council's membership.

The Economic and Social Council held its 2001 organizational session in New York in January and a resumed organizational session in March, May and June. It also held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions in May, its substantive session in Geneva in July and a resumed substantive session in New York in October and December. The Council agreed to change the name of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

The work of UN bodies concerned with administrative and coordination matters, including ACC, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Joint Inspection Unit, was also reviewed. ACC continued to give high priority to security issues, adopting a new cost-sharing formula for security-related matters at Headquarters and in the field.

The Committee on Conferences examined requests for changes to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2001, and again recommended measures to improve the use of conference servicing resources. The Committee welcomed the establishment of permanent interpretation services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and was pleased that its conference-servicing facility was becoming organizationally, functionally and budgetarily an integral part of the UN Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services. The Committee commended the re-engineering of the Official Document System that was made available to UN staff and the permanent missions to the United Nations, but expressed serious concern about the growing disparities on the UN web site between English and the other official languages of the Organization.

Other issues addressed included the promotion of information technology, the further development and streamlining of common services, especially at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the use of private management consulting firms, measures to enhance the profitability of UN commercial activities and questions relating to the construction, management and maintenance of UN buildings and facilities.