

**English**  
Express

The Yearbook of the United Nations  
Yearbook Express

Yearbook of the United Nations



1988

Volume 42



# 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 1988

## Volume 42

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

Following is the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization, submitted to the General Assembly and dated 14 September 1988. The Assembly took note of it on 17 October (decision 43/404.)

### **I**

Last year, in my report on the work of the Organization, I said that the sails of the small boat in which all the people of the Earth were gathered seemed to have caught a light but favourable wind. At the time, with the clouds of controversy still dark, a less cautious metaphor would have appeared unwarranted. A succession of developments has, however, justified my reasoned hope. With careful and patient navigation, the vessel has come within sight of large sections of the shore. The developments of the past months have not been fortuitous. They are the result of diplomatic activity sustained over the years by the United Nations and intensified recently. On matters of international peace and security, the principal organs of the United Nations have increasingly functioned in the manner envisaged in the Charter. The working relationship of the Security Council and the Secretary-General has rarely if ever been closer. I am thankful for this as also for the recent improvement in international relations at the global level that has opened new possibilities for successful action by the world body. Multilateralism has proved itself far more capable of inspiring confidence and achieving results than any of its alternatives. Millions around the world have had a gratifying demonstration of the potential of the Organization and the validity of the hopes they place in it.

The international situation is still, of course, marked by points of strain and danger, visible or lurking. Complacency about the resolution of complex problems that still face us is impermissible. However, the possibilities of bringing peace to troubled regions through the efforts of the United Nations have plainly come into view.

### **II**

The conclusion of the Geneva Accords in April represented a major stride in the effort to secure a peaceful solution of the situation relating to Afghanistan and provides a basis for the exercise by all Afghans of their right to self-determination. It is the first instance of the world's two most powerful States becoming co-guarantors of an agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Secretary-General. The full implementation of the Accords in good faith by all the signatories will significantly serve the goal of peace in the region and the world. Immediately after the Accords came into effect, the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) began monitoring their implementation, including the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. Moreover, within weeks thereafter, the United Nations initiated a humanitarian and economic assistance programme, with a Co-ordinator specially appointed by me, to help the people of Afghanistan in meeting their serious economic and humanitarian needs at this critical moment in their history.

On 20 August, a cease-fire was secured in the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq war in the context of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 598(1987). A United Nations Iran-Iraq

Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) was deployed as at the time and date of the cease-fire. Simultaneously, invitations were extended to the two Governments to send their representatives for direct talks at a high level under my auspices. The talks started on schedule on 25 August. The entire process has exemplified the efficacy of a mandate entrusted to the Secretary-General when actively supported by the Security Council and backed by the complementary efforts of other Member States. For success in the complex task of implementing Security Council resolution 598(1987), it is essential that both Iran and Iraq continue to act on the conviction that genuine peace will provide to each of them opportunities for reconstruction and progress that a fragile situation cannot. On my part, I will do my utmost to help achieve the just and lasting solution envisaged by the Security Council.

There has been an improvement in prospects for the independence of Namibia. Recent diplomatic activity has made a significant contribution to the peace process in southern Africa, which should facilitate a settlement in Namibia without further delay. The date of 1 November 1988 has been recommended for beginning the implementation of Security Council resolution 435(1978). In the light of these developments, the Secretariat has undertaken a review of its contingency plans in order to hold itself in readiness for the timely emplacement of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia. It is my hope that current efforts will finally succeed in bringing independence to the people of Namibia.

For many years, the question of Cyprus has involved the continuous exercise of the good offices of the Secretary-General on the basis of a mandate entrusted to him by the Security Council. My latest initiative has evoked greater receptivity from both sides. At the discussion the leaders of the two sides had in my presence on 24 August, they expressed their willingness to meet without any preconditions and to attempt to achieve by 1 June 1989 a negotiated settlement of all aspects of the Cyprus problem. Confirming their desire to cooperate with me in my mission, they agreed to start talks on 15 September and to review with me the progress achieved at the initial stage.

During the past year, the prospects for peace in South-East Asia have also improved, through the initiation of a dialogue between the Kampuchean parties and other concerned countries. This is an encouraging trend as it confirms the interest on all sides in achieving a political solution to the problem. I sincerely hope that concrete progress will soon be achieved on the main substantive issues. I have presented to the parties a number of specific ideas intended to facilitate the elaboration of a framework for a comprehensive political settlement. I remain at their disposal to help bring this process to fruition.

After long effort, an appropriate climate has been established for a just and durable solution of the problem of Western Sahara. Along with the head of the Organization of African Unity, I submitted a peace plan to which the parties concerned conveyed their acceptance with some remarks and comments on 30 August. This will entail a significant operation in the area for the United Nations, with both civilian and military components. I hope that, with the necessary goodwill on all sides, we will soon witness a final settlement of the problem, which will undoubtedly help consolidate the present favourable trend in the region.

All these problems, in their different contexts, have been moved towards solutions in consonance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with diplomatic activity at multilateral and other levels proceeding in convergent directions. For itself, the United Nations does not seek, and was never meant to seek, any kind of diplomatic autarky; what it requires is that diplomacy among Governments, especially those which are concerned with a particular issue, situation or

region, should help realize the aims that it has defined. With the United Nations indicating the principles and the direction for efforts to settle a dispute, all relevant points of diplomatic contact and influence in the network of multilateral relationships can be coherently drawn upon to achieve the objectives of peace. Recently, we have had encouraging evidence of the practicality of this process.

There are other regional problems that continue to cause international concern. The situation in the Middle East, a critically important region of the globe, has repercussions on relationships in a far wider sphere. The members of the Security Council have recently expressed their grave concern over the continued deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. The uprising since December 1987 has vividly demonstrated the dangers of stalemate resulting from inability to agree on a negotiating process. Even the urgently required measures to enhance the safety and protection of the Palestinian people of the territories, through the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, will neither remove the causes of the events that prompted Security Council resolution 605(1987) nor bring peace to the region. As the underlying problems can only be resolved through a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242(1967) and 338(1973), and taking fully into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination, what is needed is an urgent effort by the international community, led by the Security Council, to promote an effective negotiating process towards a solution that will secure the interests of both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples and enable them to live in peace with each other. The next few months may provide opportunities to accelerate this endeavour.

The situation in Central America is the result of convulsions within societies originating in underdevelopment and unjust socio-economic structures. The signing of the Guatemala Procedure in August 1987 signalled the determination of the five Central American Presidents to find solutions to the region's problems free from outside interference and the pressure of geopolitical conflicts. I agreed to participate in the impartial international verification of the process of pacification. Furthermore, at the request of the General Assembly, I formulated a special plan for economic cooperation for Central America, which was considered by the Assembly in May. However, a year after the signing of the Guatemala Procedure, the momentum for peace appears to be faltering and the considerable progress made to date seems to be seriously threatened. The principal merit of the Agreement lay in its requirement for simultaneous progress on two broad fronts: democratization and the cessation of armed hostilities. Its success depends on full compliance and a concerted effort by the signatories as well as the co-operation of all the Governments and parties involved.

The situation in Korea is a legacy of the Second World War and its aftermath. Sustained dialogue between North and South Korea could lead to real progress towards resolving the outstanding issues. It is necessary for all those who are in a position to do so to help foster an atmosphere conducive to an amicable solution of differences between the two sides. Both Governments are aware of my readiness to assist them whenever and in whatever manner they desire.

The region of southern Africa is suffering from a conflict with three dimensions: the question of Namibia, the acts of destabilization against the neighbouring States of South Africa and the system of apartheid in South Africa itself. I have already referred to the progress made on the question of Namibia. Acts of destabilization have threatened peace in the whole region.

Developments in, or relating to, the continuance of a situation of racial discrimination, which is so repugnant to the spirit of our age, lend further force to the repeated-and hitherto unheeded-urgings of the international community that apartheid be dismantled. These urgings provide a renewed opportunity to the Government of South Africa to signal an acceptance of what is just as well as inevitable-the end of apartheid. I would appeal to that Government to respond to them in that spirit. Postponing or evading this change of course is fraught with dangers which all the people of the country and its neighbours would certainly wish to avoid.

### III

The present juncture of efforts and potentialities opens fresh perspectives for our common political endeavour. This seems to have prompted the observation increasingly heard in recent months that we may be entering a new phase of world affairs. I take the observation as neither a politician's promise nor a scientist's conclusion. A vast range of actions and policies is required to prove it right. If opportunities for breakthroughs on a variety of issues are to be seized, it seems to be important that we keep in mind the implications of our experience, whether of success or of stalemate, in the efforts to resolve the major political questions on our agenda. In this report, I shall deal with these implications and the emerging outlook for the United Nations. As the resurgence in public interest in the Organization has been rather sudden, it is appropriate to recall the long background of efforts, accomplishments and set-backs behind our current experience.

We are all aware of the reasons why, during the first four decades of its existence, the United Nations has been unable to put in place the reliable system of collective security that its Charter envisaged. This system was based on the assumption that the grand alliance of the victors of the Second World War would continue and develop into their joint custodianship of world peace. Furthermore, in the words of one of the principal architects of the world organization, the late President Roosevelt, the system implied "the end of the system of unilateral actions, exclusive alliances and spheres of influence and balances of power and all the other expedients which have been tried for centuries and have always failed". The chastening experience of the most extensive war fought on this planet was expected to transform the older patterns of power relations.

However, developments during the early years of the Organization went contrary to expectations. The assumed radical change was hindered by a variety of factors as far as relationships at the highest plane of global power were concerned. A whole set of circumstances created a continuing climate of mutual suspicion and fear. In such a climate, the great Powers often looked at the United Nations from different angles, with the result that issues that could have been resolved through their joint endeavour became instead added subjects of controversy between them. An almost insuperable obstacle was thus placed in the way of the United Nations to give world peace a durable foundation.

In the difficult phase that naturally ensued- and that has lasted for decades-many who believed in the essentiality of the United Nations were thrown on the defensive. They were driven to enumerate the political achievements of the United Nations in specific cases, but these appeared slim in comparison with the great unresolved issues of our time. I believe that the accomplishments of the world Organization, at any stage of its career, were far larger than what appeared from the case usually made in its defence. Along with the undeniable central fact that

the United Nations was often brought to an impasse, in the field of maintaining international peace and security, by the inability of the permanent members of the Security Council to develop a common approach, there was also the fact, equally central, that the United Nations did not allow this factor to block its endeavours; with ingenuity and realism, it found other ways of at least defusing conflicts. If, in one vital respect, it fell short of the Charter, in other respects it kept pace with, and often served as a catalyst of, the process of rapid and peaceful change.

The United Nations played a decisive role in the process of decolonization, which has changed the political complexion of the globe and given vast populations control over their destiny. It gave authoritative definition to human rights and devised monitoring and other mechanisms for encouraging greater respect for them. It codified international law. In partnership with its specialized agencies, it established guidelines to deal with new problems and emerging concerns ranging from the environment, population, the law of the sea, the safeguarding of the rights of the hitherto disadvantaged segments of society like women, children, the aging and the handicapped to terrorism, drug abuse and the incidence of AIDS. It has responded to situations of disaster and dire human need; it has provided protection to refugees. It has had notable successes in the campaign for conquest of avoidable disease in the poorer parts of the world; it has taken measures towards food security and child survival. It has raised consciousness of global economic imperatives; through its development programmes and the specialized agencies, it has represented a vital source of economic and technical assistance to developing countries.

In the political field, even when disabled by differences among the permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations has displayed a capacity for innovation and played a role that on no reckoning can be considered peripheral. It has repeatedly acted to limit and control armed conflicts; without the peace-keeping operations launched by it, the theatres of conflict would have undoubtedly represented far greater danger to the wider peace. On major international disputes, it has suggested terms of just settlement. The formulation of such terms is the first requirement for bringing a dispute within a manageable scope and weeding out its implacable elements: this requirement the United Nations has repeatedly sought to fulfil. Above all, the Organization has maintained emphasis on the great objectives of arms limitation and disarmament, the self-determination of peoples and the promotion of human rights, which are essential for the strengthening of universal peace. These achievements have been made against the backdrop of the most massive transition in the history of the human race. The emergence of new States has taken place at the same time that there has been a proliferation of global concerns, stemming partly from the emerging problems I mentioned above, partly from the impact of advancing technologies and partly from a new mass consciousness of rights leading to the non-acceptance of old inequities within or between societies. The United Nations has not only given shape and expression to the sense of world community but established a basis for nations to develop a concerted response to their common problems.

#### IV

Our experience has thus shown that co-operative management of a variety of global problems, reflecting a community of interest among Member States, is an entirely workable idea. We have now come to, or are nearing, a stage where the extension of this approach to resolving some of the major political issues on our agenda is within our reach.

Changes in perceptions and attitudes, of which we have had pronounced signs since the last session of the General Assembly, suggest that we may be witnessing a transition, however slow or occasionally uncertain, towards a new pattern of relationships at the global level. The transition has the logic of necessity behind it. It is certainly justified by the insupportable cost and the incalculable dangers of a self-perpetuating arms race. It could derive support from the realization that security cannot be viewed in military terms alone nor does the application of military power resolve situations in traditionally expected ways. It is, or can be, propelled by the need for greater attention to the problems of economic modernization or to the social problems that economic growth has left untouched. It is evidenced by trends towards horizontal co-operation between States adhering to different social systems without prejudice to their political alignments. It would seem to respond to the multi-polarity of the world's economic power. All these factors, combined with the technological revolution and the sense of global interdependence, seem to call for radical adjustments of outlook on the part of the world's leadership. There is, of course, no guarantee against temporary reverses or set-backs in the process, nor can ambivalence in the relationships of power blocs be excluded. However, the direction appears to be better set and helped by weightier factors now than at any time in recent years. How this transition will affect the United Nations and how it has been affected by the United Nations are questions of practical import that merit the most serious reflection on our part.

The world community has rightly acclaimed the statesmanship displayed by the leaders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America in jointly expressing their shared perception that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, in initiating a constructive dialogue between their Governments and in concluding the Treaty on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missile, in December 1987. I believe that the international community, articulating its political consciousness through the United Nations, is more than a witness to agreements that narrow the division between the world's most powerful States. It is deeply affected by, and concerned with, the issues at stake. The sustained emphasis by the United Nations on the goals of arms limitation and disarmament, especially in the nuclear field, and the declared non-alignment of the majority of its Member States, with its implied negation of the concept of expanding spheres of rival influence, have helped to provide the political and mental environment for the ongoing process of mutual accommodation between the great Powers. Not only the mathematics of the arms equation and its economic cost but also the attitudes of the world beyond have been factors behind this process.

## V

There is a school of thought that holds that the great Powers do not need the world organization except as a symbol of the world community and that its meetings merely provide a convenient opportunity for periodic bilateral exchanges. The view seems to derive support from the dissatisfaction with the working of the United Nations expressed by one or another of these Powers at different times. However, it fails to recognize their interest in maintaining their positions of respect and influence in a changing world situation. There can hardly be a better place than the United Nations for any Power, large or small, to enhance its influence in the best sense of the term. The United Nations offers every country a forum where, with its resources of knowledge and experience, it can take a lead in framing the universal agenda, draw attention to new

concerns and new ways of solving problems and contribute to the process of peaceful change. For a country, large or small, to turn its back, to whatever extent, on the United Nations would be to surrender a good part of its actual or potential influence. To follow a two-track policy—at one level, to owe allegiance to the Charter, and, at the other, to seek to marginalize the United Nations—would be to act contrary to the goal of harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of their common ends.

Moreover, while, in the normal course, the great Powers, like others, resolve or reduce their differences through negotiations outside the United Nations, they need the United Nations to come to grips with issues that concern other nations and that, in one way or another, impinge on their own relationships as well. In this respect, the great Powers need to show a sensitivity to the expressed wishes of the majority of Member States. I have not the slightest doubt that these wishes are based on genuine concerns and not on any primordial opposition, far less hostility, to the policies of one or another major Power. All this argues for greater, not less, support of the United Nations, for engagement and not grudging participation in its work.

I welcome the efforts being made to control rhetorical inflation in the debates of the General Assembly, dialogue and indeed to promote civility in to develop, even if gradually, a balance between debate and negotiation, the parliamentary and the diplomatic approaches, which are equally part and parcel of the United Nations. Continuing public debate is meant to exert pressure towards negotiations; when it can no longer do so, it defeats the aims of its own sponsors. Resolutions are meant to keep alive the goals to be achieved and to ensure that these goals are not lost sight of in a multitude of other concerns. In that perspective, they can become an indispensable factor for the successful outcome of negotiations and can be perceived as resolutions in the full sense of the term, not as incantations or mere formulations of theory. But they become ineffective when they look like stock resolutions. There needs to be an adjustment of political attitudes on all sides to the double requirement of making resolutions more purposeful and of paying respect to them as genuine expressions or reminders of widely shared concerns.

## VI

A primary fact of the present world situation is that, while the power to destroy the Earth is concentrated in a few hands, the power to make and strengthen peace is widely dispersed.

This makes the engagement of the United Nations—the only instrumentality that can ensure the full representation of all concerned parties and relevant viewpoints—central to the great task of resolving regional conflicts. The Organization's long experience of handling these conflicts has certain implications that, I feel, need to be taken into account for sound and workable policies in future.

Some of these implications flow so directly from the Charter that to restate them can look like emphasizing the obvious. Yet, at the hopeful stage we have reached now, they have gained fresh pertinence from a practical point of view. The Charter obligation of settling international disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, for instance, would imply that these disputes should be kept under constant review by the Security Council. This, in turn, would preclude an attitude of passivity towards a conflict when it is in a

phase of relative quiescence. It would certainly not justify tacit acceptance of an inherently brittle status quo in the context of any conflict.

Another implication of our current and recent experience is that when an armed conflict erupts and as long as it persists the utmost care needs to be taken by other Powers, global or regional, not to add to its size or intensity. This does not exclude sympathy with the side perceived to be the victim. As I said in my annual report five years ago, regional conflicts have been viewed as wars by proxy among more powerful nations. The improved bilateral relations between the major Powers could arrest this dangerous trend. But not only they are involved. When the tensions or differences between the major or middle-sized Powers are grafted onto a conflict that could otherwise be confined to those immediately involved, the conflict is not only widened: it becomes intractable as one or the other party feels encouraged in its obduracy and neither feels any incentive to explore the possibilities of compromise. Moreover, the Charter obligation of activating or supporting the United Nations in resolving a conflict is inconsistent with what may be called permissive neutrality.

The whole Charter system of collective security rests on the permanent members of the Security Council applying a sense of common purpose to addressing a conflict as soon as it erupts. As long as they view regional problems in the framework of their own rivalries, solutions will be blocked. Once this dark shadow is removed from the diplomatic landscape these problems can be addressed in the right perspective. This would result in a more judicious and principled use of the veto. A principle underlying the Charter is that membership of the Security Council, both permanent and non-permanent, is to be regarded as service to the cause of peace rather than as a function of unilateral positions or interests. With the adoption of resolution 598(1987) by the Security Council, there has been a reassuring and unanimous interest in restoring the Council's peace-making capacity. I believe that fresh avenues have been opened for a consideration again of some of the ideas I submitted in my annual reports in 1982 and 1983 about making the Security Council more effective.

The effectiveness of the Security Council, however, requires that once it has made a determination on a dispute all Member States give it full support in the sense not only of accepting an agreed text but of providing strong diplomatic backing for it. The Charter certainly calls for the application of the collective influence of Member States to lending irresistible weight to a just solution. Furthermore, in carrying out its duties under the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council acts on behalf of all Member States.

Peace-keeping operations have proved to be an inescapable necessity in the context of many conflicts. Their success, however, depends not only on the consent of the parties but also on the consistent support of the Security Council, on a clear and practicable mandate, on the readiness of Member States to volunteer troops and on adequate financial arrangements. These considerations become more important in view of the evolving world situation, which could well assign a broader role to the peace-keeping operations of the United Nations. They might possibly have to be extended to the maritime environment and adapted to new types of situations that have international implications. I believe that attention should be paid to the need for the United Nations to be better prepared for launching peace-keeping operations, sometimes at short notice. In the broad context of these operations, it is gratifying that all permanent members of the Security Council are now in favour of the peace-keeping aspect of the Organization's work. The

valour, heroism and sacrifice of the soldiers of peace who man these operations evoke the most heartfelt tribute from all of us.

Peace-keeping, of course, can only be a palliative if it is not made to serve as a prelude to, or to accompany, negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement. A situation of stalemate or worse about the resolution of the dispute underlying a conflict can cause frustration and despair, which, in the long run, may jeopardize the usefulness of the peace-keeping operation itself, regardless of how well it has managed to moderate or control the conflict.

Moreover, I feel that better possibilities for peacemaking can be realized by the employment of a more forthright kind of diplomacy. Let us not forget that peace is secured by agreements, not by the illusion of agreements. When negotiations are envisaged, the adoption of a resolution by the Security Council lays the ground for—but does not necessarily conclude—the diplomatic process required. Negotiations on the basis of the resolution are rendered more difficult if different interpretations are put on its provisions by its framers. The adoption of an agreed text on a controversial issue has certainly the merit of defining the terms of its settlement; in this sense, a vague definition (providing a certain latitude for negotiations) is preferable to no definition at all. However, what is required for solutions to emerge is not merely the endorsement of an agreed text by the members of the Council but also their shared understanding of that text and co-ordinated policy on its basis. A cohesive approach in the spirit of the Charter, regardless of differences of perception, interest or ideology, is indispensable for resolving conflicts.

## VII

Strengthening the prospects of peace can entail concrete operations for the United Nations in addition to those of peace-keeping. As peace initiatives addressed to specific situations make headway, the tasks, essential from both the political and the humanitarian points of view, of providing relief to the affected populations and arranging the rehabilitation of those displaced fall primarily on the United Nations. The special programme of humanitarian and economic assistance for Afghanistan is a particularly significant example as is the increased co-operation programme in support of efforts for peace in Central America. In addition, emergency relief efforts organized, for instance, for Ethiopia, Lebanon and Mozambique demonstrate the continuing engagement of the United Nations in the alleviation of the massive suffering caused by conflicts or other adverse circumstances. The work in the past years of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and others in meeting the basic needs of destitute refugees and displaced or suffering populations has established a sound basis for this kind of effort. I am grateful for the generous response of Governments to the calls made for material support.

## VIII

Resolving conflicts is a prime responsibility of the United Nations, but avoiding them is equally necessary for the maintenance of peace.

The continents of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been the scene of a large number of armed conflicts during the existence of the United Nations. It is one of the most disquieting

features of our age that inter-State conflicts should occur when Governments could easily avail themselves of the machinery of the United Nations or of other multilateral organizations to help resolve their disputes. The number of those killed in hostilities between Iran and Iraq provides a massive—and, I hope, conclusive—testimony to the human cost of war.

Fortunately, there are also glimmerings of hope in diverse areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Some signs of developing common regional perspectives are visible at several points of the globe. Moreover, encouraging examples have been set of States resorting to judicial settlement of their disputes. I would appeal to Governments to make it a practice, as far as possible, to refer justiciable cases to the International Court of Justice. A tradition will thus be established of having recourse to law, which can avert many possible conflicts, with their incalculable waste. Moreover, the hopes we derive from a change of perception and attitude at the global level will be considerably fortified if similar changes dispel fears and suspicions at the regional level.

In the late twentieth century, violent civil strife and social turmoil are not confined to any one region of the globe. In its current state of flux, human society contains smouldering elements, which often flare in explosive violence. The internationalization of crime, with traffic in drugs and terrorism its most appalling signs, can subvert friendly relations among nations unless Member States strengthen their multilateral co-operation in saving the present and future generations from a new kind of scourge. The United Nations has taken an unequivocal stand on ways and means of fighting these new dangers to human society. These means can be used only if Member States maintain and strengthen a sense of social solidarity.

Global society has been lately much afflicted by disregard for international law. It is obvious that international confidence would rest on quicksand if the domestic necessities felt by Governments were allowed to override the international obligations they have solemnly undertaken. Without international law respected by all States there can be no stable framework for multilateral cooperation in our highly complex world of sovereign States and conflicting interests. It sounds axiomatic yet it needs to be stressed that States or other international persons are bound by treaties that have been properly concluded and that have entered into force. The principle that treaties must be complied with and carried out in good faith, commonly expressed in the maxim *pacta sunt seruanda*, is basic to the Charter. Respect for international agreements is not only one of the fundamental principles of international law; it is the foundation of the organized international community. If this principle were abandoned, the whole superstructure of contemporary international law and organization, including the functioning of the United Nations, the effectiveness of the decisions of its competent organs and resort to international arbitration or judicial settlement of justiciable disputes, would collapse. It is in the equal interest of all States, large or small, to work towards a world where nations will operate within a complete, coherent and viable system of law. Any movement away from this goal holds equal danger for all.

## IX

Disarmament and the regulation of armaments, with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, to use the language of the Charter, will remain a decisive test of the improvement of international relations and the strengthening of peace. The

Charter envisaged a system for regulating armaments when the arms race had nowhere reached its present scale and when it did not threaten to be, as it is now, both a cause and an effect of tensions between States at the regional as well as the global levels.

Over the years, considerable work has been done in formulating the principles that should govern disarmament and defining the issues involved in it. However, the translation of these principles into actual plans has remained an elusive goal. In a global climate of distrust, at times exaggerated, the arms race acquired an air of inevitability and discussions about halting and reversing it appeared futile. However, the refreshing change signified by the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles by the USSR and the United States as well as the prospect of a reduction in strategic nuclear weapons seemed to furnish a propitious background to the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which was held from 31 May to 25 June this year. The impressive number of national leaders that attended the session was an indication of the level of concern—and hope—felt all over the world on this issue. The proceedings had a largely non-polemical tone and the bulk of the text proposed for adoption was generally agreed upon.

It was no doubt disappointing that these favourable circumstances did not lead to the adoption of a concluding document with consensus on its entirety. At least two of the questions that blocked this adoption related to controversial issues regarding situations in the Middle East and southern Africa. This showed how regional concerns cast a shadow over the consideration of issues of global war and peace. Nevertheless, the emergence of a better-focused outlook on disarmament was confirmed by a shared acceptance of some important propositions, which provide a basis for productive discussions and action in the General Assembly:

- Disarmament is not the exclusive responsibility of the two most powerful States, but a joint undertaking of all States;
- While nuclear disarmament must continue to be the primary concern, conventional disarmament has acquired a new importance and urgency;
- The qualitative aspect of the arms race needs to be addressed along with its quantitative aspect;
- National security needs to be viewed in the broader context of global issues and international concerns;
- The goals of disarmament and arms limitation need to be pursued in conjunction with efforts to resolve conflicts, build confidence and promote economic and social development;
- The existing machinery for disarmament can and should be utilized better.

Other promising elements in the proceedings of the special session were the common standpoints on the need to conclude a chemical weapons convention at the earliest, to consider the phenomenon of arms transfers, with their impact on situations of actual or potential conflict, to mobilize modern technology in the cause of disarmament and to encourage States with major space capabilities to contribute actively to the objective of the exclusively peaceful use of outer space. It was also agreed that the potentially important role of the United Nations in the verification of multilateral disarmament and arms control agreements needed to be studied in depth.

I believe that, the absence of an agreed final text at the recent special session notwithstanding, all these elements can serve to lend further breadth and substance and a pragmatic tone to the international agenda for disarmament. Immediate attention needs to be directed to the negotiation of those measures in which agreement is possible in the foreseeable future. These include a further reduction of nuclear weapons of the two greatest military Powers and the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, transfer and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction. The latter has become a compelling need in view of the shocking evidence, which has been documented in the case of the Iran-Iraq war, of the use of chemical weapons. The vast growth in the arsenals of conventional weapons, particularly in the regional context, intertwined as it is with arms transfers, also requires urgent consideration.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, designed to serve as a barrier against the acquisition of nuclear weapons, is the multilateral agreement in the field of arms limitation which has been signed by the largest number of States. Nevertheless, there is a growing concern that intensified efforts are needed to remove the very real danger of the proliferation of these weapons, both vertical and horizontal, which exists today. An important step towards mitigating this danger would be universal adherence to the Treaty. The Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty to be held in 1990 will furnish an opportunity to find new ways and means to strengthen the non-proliferation régime. The success of this Conference would provide a strong impetus to efforts aimed at achieving a complete cessation of nuclear-weapons tests and halting the continuous refinement and spread of these weapons.

Agreements or mechanisms with limited participation, fundamentally important though they are, cannot by themselves transform the political environment caused by the present arms situation or secure the commitment of all required for disarmament measures. Nor can the verification of multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements and the relationship between disarmament and development be dealt with successfully except in the multilateral framework. To a great extent, a durable improvement in international relations depends on the success of the United Nations in discharging its mandate in this field.

## X

The fortieth anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights comes at a time when the evolving world situation lends fresh point and urgency to the notions of human dignity and larger freedom expressed in the Charter.

A most deplorable feature of the present international scene is the frequency and magnitude of violations of fundamental human rights in different countries and regions. Summary arrests and executions, disappearances of individuals, the systematic practice of torture and killings of unarmed demonstrators continue to impose a heavy burden on the world's conscience. There have been reports of the forced exodus and even massacres of large groups of human beings. Timely demonstration of serious concern by Member States is essential if such appalling situations are to be checked now and prevented in future.

The Organization's work in the field of human rights, beginning with the Declaration, joined later by the two International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to form the International Bill of Human

Rights, has set universally accepted standards for the observance of human rights. The work continues as we approach, for example, the adoption of conventions protecting the rights of two especially vulnerable groups: children and migrant workers. A basis has been laid for constructive dialogue between Governments and the relevant expert committees. This year witnessed the first session of the newest such body, the Committee against Torture. Yet the struggle remains to give living reality to the provisions that have been made for promoting respect for human rights. Unless a consciousness of these rights becomes a vital element in the political ethos of a society, they are likely to be denied or truncated.

The key elements are knowledge by the individual citizens of their basic human rights and how to protect them and the existence of adequate national laws, procedures and practice for safeguarding them. For the United Nations, therefore, the twin goals guiding activities in this field, this year and in the years to come, will be the widest dissemination of information on human rights and the provision of advisory services and technical assistance for their protection. The mechanisms patiently developed for monitoring violations of human rights and drawing the attention of concerned Governments to them, often confidentially by the Secretary-General, and the functioning of the United Nations organs as focal points for the expression of their concerns by Governments and non-governmental organizations are proving to be invaluable in the great campaign of universalizing the enjoyment of human rights.

The existing machinery needs to be continually strengthened. Universal ratification and faithful implementation of human rights instruments are of the utmost importance. It is in all these diverse ways that the world community can develop methods to confront and remedy denials of human rights. A strong human rights programme can make our task in other areas significantly easier.

## XI

In the economic sphere, the international community needs to act urgently in three areas: debt, trade and commodities, and human resources development.

For many developing countries, the crushing burden of external debt is crippling the development effort. Some progress has been made in dealing with debt problems of the poorest countries, especially those in Africa. I am happy to note the contribution to that end made by the report of the Advisory Group on Financial Flows for Africa, which I constituted last year. But the problems of the middle-income countries are no less pressing. The co-responsibility of debtor and creditor countries for the debt crisis has been increasingly recognized as has the mutual interest in breaking the current deadlock. There is a need promptly to fulfil the commitments made as well as to intensify the search for innovative solutions. Pursuant to a resolution of the General Assembly at the forty- second session, I have personally met with a group of eminent personalities to explore ways and means of finding durable, equitable and mutually agreed solutions to the debt problems of developing countries. I shall make a report to the Assembly separately on this subject.

Debt relief is only one aspect of the problem. Complementary action is needed in increasing financial flows, in particular concessional flows, to support development efforts. An improved international environment is also a prerequisite to restoring and accelerating the pace of economic development. Central to this is progress towards the resumption of more vigorous and

healthy growth in international trade. It is imperative that Governments make every effort to achieve concrete results by the time of the mid-term review of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations to be held in Montreal in December. I have also stressed on many occasions the urgency of taking a fresh look at the commodities problem, to see what more can be done in a practical way to alleviate the plight of commodity-dependent countries.

Ultimately, development means improving the human condition. I am gratified by the efforts made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to draw attention to the importance of human resources development and to spur action to alleviate critical poverty. I hope that these initiatives will gather further momentum in all of the affected parts of the developing world.

The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development gives me the special responsibility of monitoring developments in Africa. We are currently engaged in a review of progress made so far under the Programme of Action. Despite earnest efforts to carry out adjustments in their national economic policies, most African countries have found little reprieve from the harsh impact of climatic conditions and an unfavourable external economic environment. It seems to me that, while a promising start has been made, a faster implementation of the commitments made by the developed countries is needed to avert a serious set-back to the overall process.

The international community responds generously to emergency requirements and to calls for immediate alleviation of dire needs. Unfortunately, international assistance programmes do not attract the same measure of support when long-term development is at stake. As is demonstrated in Africa, such programmes are necessary if the affected groups are to resume productive lives. Failing this, millions continue to languish in poverty, depending on external assistance for their survival. Remedial action needs to be taken so that they can again become self-reliant and contribute to national development.

Considering the interrelatedness of issues and the interdependence of national economies and bearing in mind the dramatic changes that have occurred in the world economy during the past 40 years, it seems to be imperative that the United Nations system strive to achieve greater harmony and coherence in our collective response to the challenges facing us today and those that lie ahead. However, even as the crucial role of the Organization in the political sphere is being widely supported, the question of how best to utilize its capacity to find integrated solutions to economic and social issues in all their aspects still remains subject to debate.

In my report last year, I had made some suggestions on how to strengthen the Economic and Social Council for fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter. The Special Commission, established by the Council, has carried out a thorough and useful review of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors. It was unfortunate that the Commission could not agree on a set of recommendations about the many activities in the economic and social fields which it discussed. Nevertheless, its discussions reveal substantial areas of agreement on important general principles, which could provide a basis for future action.

I welcome the Council's resolution on revitalization which, when implemented, can greatly enhance its ability to give policy guidelines as well as to monitor and co-ordinate the economic and social activities of the United Nations system. The Council's resolution and the report of the Special Commission will be extremely helpful for further deliberations in the context of the ongoing reform process. I should like to touch upon two elements relevant to this process.

First, the Council's effectiveness depends upon its ability to provide authoritative guidance towards a clear definition of priorities. I continue to believe that this ability will be strengthened if the Council meets at a sufficiently high political level, preferably ministerial, to consider issues of major importance for the international community. Such meetings would enhance the Council's status, credibility and effectiveness.

Second, and closely related to the above, Member States need to consider practical steps to identify those issues which are relatively more important and timely for intergovernmental consideration. In doing so, full consideration needs to be given to the fact that financial, monetary, trade and development issues are interrelated and have profound political and social implications. The concept of sustainable development in its broadest sense has relevance in this context.

When global problems call for global solutions, the value of the United Nations to Member States is apparent to all. Successful global initiatives, whether in the political field (which I mentioned earlier) or in the economic, social or humanitarian sphere, mean operational activities at country or subregional level. Two examples may suffice here:

The global AIDS initiative launched under the leadership of the World Health Organization is already being reflected in country-level activities supported by the United Nations Development Programme, which has been designated the operational arm in this important venture. together with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund for which maternal and child health are primary concerns.

The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held at Vienna in 1987, assigned a greatly increased role and responsibility to the United Nations, which it is fully committed to meet. Here again, at the country level, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the United Nations Development Programme have joined forces to assist in the development and implementation of specific actions.

It is most encouraging that specific focus has been placed by Member States on operational activities for development in the course of the past 12 months. Conditions may now be ripe for the introduction of significant improvements in the nature and organization of these activities to ensure that they are fully responsive to a rapidly changing and diversified context and able to match rising expectations.

The links between specific global goals and provision of support for related national and subregional efforts can surely be built on to ensure that, in the preparation of a fourth international development strategy for the 1990s, we will be able to count on direct support from some of the operational activities of the system in the achievement of specific objectives. This would add both strength and coherence to our overall efforts in the economic and social fields.

## **XII**

The state of the Earth's environment is pre-eminently a problem that should evoke a solidarity of response from all nations. It has, however, reached a stage where, without a global ethic and the necessary law, it can give rise to divisive issues with political implications.

The problem is linked with those of poverty, the growth in the world's population to 5 billion and the prospects for sustainable development. It also involves issues of international responsibility. As such, it has too many aspects for any single country or even a group of countries to be able to deal with effectively. A coherent and well-co-ordinated approach can be developed only at the multilateral level.

This year, with the apprehension that the green-house effect has begun to affect our planet, public anxiety around the world has increased about the deterioration of the environment. The United Nations Environment Programme has proceeded, together with the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council of Scientific Unions, to develop internationally accepted assessments of the reality as well as the causes and impact of climatic change. The aim is to co-ordinate government policies to prevent, limit, delay or adapt to this change. With the help of a dialogue between scientists and policy makers, an international agreement needs to be evolved and, if necessary, one or more legal instruments adopted in order to address the effects of this ominous phenomenon in planetary experience.

A constructive precedent has been established in this context with the adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer at a conference convened by UNEP in September 1987. This as well as the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer constitute a major step in the development of international environmental law and set an example of managing a world problem before it leads to irreversible damage to human health and the environment.

These reassuring signs of progress notwithstanding, the crisis deepens as a growing population finds itself driven to use irreplaceable natural resources. Desertification, soil erosion, deforestation, swollen cities becoming gigantic sources of pollution, on the one side, and the emission of pollutants into the air by industry, on the other, can have a cumulative and well-nigh unmanageable effect. The unprecedented drought in certain agricultural areas, the acid rain and the more recent phenomenon of trafficking in, and dumping of, toxic wastes are examples of the vexatious issues that need to be forestalled by timely action. Here again, guidelines have been formulated preparatory to a global convention governing the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and their movement across frontiers. The issue will require exchange of information, technical assistance in monitoring and control and emergency response in case of accident.

As the Conference on Sustainable Development convened by the Prime Minister of Norway at Oslo in June so lucidly brought out, all issues in the field of environment call for a genuine working partnership among nations in the interest of keeping their common home in good condition.

### **XIII**

Considering the vast sweep and scope of the possibilities now opening for constructive multilateral action through the United Nations, the financial health of the Organization needs to be immediately restored. The United Nations cannot function without money. It is still seriously short of funds. This situation includes both an immediate shortage of cash, which threatens insolvency in the next few months, and the virtual depletion of reserves. Lack of reserves means that the Organization will not be able to mount new operations.

The impact of the crisis is heightened by the in-creasing responsibilities of peacemaking and peace-keeping which the Organization has had to assume. Taking into account the new operations which the United Nations is likely to undertake in the next 12 months, its total annual expenses will rise very significantly.

I must ask the General Assembly to consider urgently both the cash and reserves aspects of this crisis and to find ways to ensure that it does not persist. These ways may have to include both new methods of raising money such as voluntary contributions or interest-free loans and also such fundamental measures as changes in the scale of assessments.

I welcome the recent decision of the United States to move towards full compliance with its international legal obligation to pay its assessed contributions to the United Nations. This is a most positive development. Partial payment of arrears will not, however, resolve the financial crisis of the Organization. Until and unless the outstanding contributions of all Member States are paid, the Organization will continue to operate with inadequate current income and virtually without reserves. Meanwhile, if the Organization is to sustain its present and foreseeable peacemaking and peace-keeping operations, its reserves must be replenished by the other means that I have mentioned above.

#### **XIV**

Reform and renewal in the United Nations has been one of my main preoccupations. As Secretary-General, I have shared the feeling that the accretions of four decades and a certain inflation of activity had encouraged a bureaucratic resistance to self-review and that we needed a leaner and more effective apparatus. As I have submitted two progress reports on this subject to the General Assembly, the second in April this year, it is not necessary to go into the details of the implementation of Assembly resolution 41/213. I may summarize some of the main points here:

Reform is the joint responsibility of both Member States and the Secretariat. As far as the Secretariat is concerned, a good part of the pro-cess pertaining to administration and finance has been completed ahead of the three-year schedule. The appropriations for the programme budget of the current biennium assume an overall vacancy rate of 15 per cent in the Professional and 10 per cent in other categories of staff.

Extensive restructuring has been undertaken in the political and administrative areas of the Secretariat and is under way in the area of public information.

A number of steps have been taken to improve co-ordination among the organizations of the United Nations system and a close look has been taken at field offices so as to avoid duplication and share resources, wherever possible.

A thorough assessment of our management information systems, in the light of current technology, has been initiated with a view to their eventual integration and the better provision of information required by Member States and the Secretariat.

Restructuring in the economic and social fields is related to the intergovernmental review. I have elsewhere in this report dwelt on this in the context of the work of the Economic and Social Council.

There are limits to the economies that can be effected in the Secretariat. An example is the provision of conference and documentation services essential to the conduct of discussions on issues on the international agenda. Without a decrease in meetings included in future calendars of conferences, post reductions of the size that were recommended in this area would gravely disrupt these services. But a decrease in meetings would mean some curtailing of the activities of the intergovernmental machinery and this would require a decision not by the Secretariat, but by Member States.

This brings us face to face with the fact that the Secretariat has grown not through a self-propelled process, but in response to the demands of the more extended intergovernmental machinery it must service. A rationalization of the structures of the Organization at the intergovernmental level would require decisions by Governments based on a re-examination of priorities among programmes and procedures for a better use of available resources. Such decisions, if acceptable to the generality of membership, would lend further substance to the process of reform.

I must add here that the staff of the Organization has faced conditions of severe strain in the most remarkable spirit. It is the undiminished loyalty of the staff to the Organization that has enabled it to perform its most vital functions, despite a very high vacancy rate. Responding to recent positive developments in the political situation, they have shown readiness and enthusiasm for a higher level of activity in the cause of peace. However, there is a limit to the additional effort that can be reasonably required from the staff. I feel that if Member States wish the Organization to maintain, as it must, the highest standards of competence and integrity, they need to ensure that conditions of employment of the staff remain competitive. Reform is not an end in itself but a means of improving the services the Organization renders to Member States. The emerging world situation, with major conflicts on the way to solution, is bound to impose additional responsibilities on the Organization—political, economic and humanitarian. It would be paradoxical and discordant if the Organization should face financial difficulties precisely when it has to meet the demands of a more constructive phase of international affairs.

## XV

The advent of a new year, decade or century, or even a new millennium, does not necessarily open a new page in the calendar of human experience. There seems to be a growing consciousness, however, that, while humanity has made phenomenal progress in the twentieth century, it has also reaped a harvest of wars and upheavals which, with better wisdom, could have been avoided. The current and preceding decades have witnessed much dangerous confusion. It is not a fanciful supposition that Governments will adjust better to a qualitatively changed and changing world environment. If the expectation is right, the United Nations will be used more purposefully than it has been before. I have in mind the use made of it by all Powers—the great, the medium and the small.

The Charter and the working of the world Organization do not promise a problem-free world. What they promise is a rational and peaceful way of solving problems. Perfect justice in relations between nations may be unattainable but inequities can be reduced. To the great dangers of the proliferation of nuclear and conventional weapons, political disputes, violations of human rights, the prevalence of poverty and threats to the environment have been added new sources of

conflict. There is a need for the world's wealth of political intelligence and imagination—and compassion—to be employed in coping with these dangers. It can be done through constant and systematic effort only within the United Nations. Non-governmental organizations play an invaluable role in this respect, especially in campaigns for disarmament and human rights; the future is bound to call for even greater dedication from them. Failure to comprehend and come to terms with the demands of emerging situations will mean suffering and privation for the weak and erosion of prestige for the strong. Greater support for the Organization is, therefore, called for not as an exercise in piety nor in a sudden and passing burst of idealism, but in sober and enlightened recognition of necessity in handling the complexities of international affairs.



Javier PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR  
*Secretary-General*

## **PART ONE**

### **Political and security questions**

#### **Chapter I (pp. 19-32)**

#### **International peace and security**

STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 19: Implementation of the 1970 Declaration, 19; Implementation of the 1978 Declaration on societies and peace, 21; Comprehensive system of international peace and security, 22; Dialogue to improve the international situation, 24; Regional and international peace and security, 25. REVIEW OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS, 29. OTHER ASPECTS, 31: Right of peoples to peace, 31; Science and peace, 31.

The Organization's activities in the maintenance of international peace and security were recognized by the award of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peacekeeping forces. At the time of the award, in September, the United Nations had nearly 10,000 peace-keeping forces and observers on duty in seven regions of the world.

The Secretary-General characterized the award as a tribute to the idealism of all who had served the Organization, in particular to the valour and sacrifices of those who had contributed and continued to contribute to peace-keeping operations.

The President of the General Assembly, in his statement on the occasion, noted that United Nations peace-keeping operations had helped prevent conflicts and had promoted the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in general. He observed that the new international atmosphere provided a concrete opportunity for the United Nations to play an even broader role in the system of collective security, of which peace-keeping operations were a fundamental instrument.

The General Assembly welcomed the award with deep appreciation, expressing the conviction that United Nations peace-keeping operations were an integral component of enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization in the maintenance of international peace and security (resolution 43/59 A).

The principal organs of the United Nations on matters of international peace and security continued to function in the manner envisaged in the Charter. International relations at the global level improved markedly, opening up new possibilities for United Nations peacemaking efforts.

The Assembly adopted a number of resolutions relating to issues of peace and security at both the regional and international levels. It recognized the strong resolve of peoples to strengthen international peace and security and promote economic and social development. It reaffirmed the lasting importance and validity of the 1984 Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (43/22) as well as the fact that peace and security and development were interrelated and inseparable (43/23).

The Assembly, noting the tenth anniversary of the 1978 Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, underscored the important role that the Declaration played in promoting world peace and international security, common understanding and mutually

beneficial co-operation (43/87). It expressed the firm conviction that ensuring international peace and security required concerted efforts and close co-operation among States (43/89).

With regard to regional security questions, the Assembly reaffirmed that the security of the Mediterranean was closely linked with European security and with international peace and security and that efforts were necessary to reduce tension and armaments and to promote peace, security and co-operation in the region (43/84). It affirmed that the implementation of confidence-and security- building measures would contribute to strengthening regional as well as international peace and security (43/85). It called for the continuation and intensification of result-oriented political dialogue and co-operation, in accordance with the United Nations Charter (43/86).

## **PART ONE**

### **Political and security questions**

#### **Chapter II (pp. 33-99)**

##### **Disarmament**

GENERAL ASPECTS 33: Third special session on disarmament, 33. COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES To DISARMAMENT, 36: UN disarmament bodies and their activities in 1988, 36; Follow-up to the General Assembly's special sessions on disarmament, 41; Implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, 46; Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, 46; General and complete disarmament, 46; Comprehensive programme of disarmament, 49; Verification, 50; Proposed world disarmament conference, 51. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, 52: Prevention of nuclear war, 52; Climatic effects of nuclear war, 55; Nuclear arms limitation and disarmament, 56; Security of non-nuclear-weapon States, 64; Nuclear non-proliferation, 66. PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF OTHER WEAPONS, 75: Chemical and biological weapons, 75; New weapons of mass destruction, including radiological weapons, 79; Conventional weapons, 83; Prevention of an arms race in outer space, 87. OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES, 89: Reduction of military budgets, 89; Economic and social consequences of the arms race, 91. INFORMATION AND STUDIES, 92: World Disarmament Campaign, 92; Regional centres for peace and disarmament, 94; Disarmament Week, 96; Disarmament studies and research, 97; Parties and signatories to disarmament agreements, 98.

During 1988, the momentum was sustained towards the general improvement in international relations, particularly between the USSR and the United States and between the two major military alliances. The 1987 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate -Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty) went into effect on 1 June 1988. Progress was also made in the deliberations at the Vienna Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in the field of confidence-and security-building measures as well as new negotiations on conventional armaments in Europe. In the United Nations and in other forums, both the USSR and the United States indicated their intention to move towards a gradual reduction of their armed forces.

The focus of United Nations disarmament activities in 1988 was the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, or third special session devoted to disarmament, which was held from 31 May to 25 June. The special session produced a more focused outlook on disarmament and provided a basis for productive discussion and action at the forty-third regular session of the Assembly, which adopted resolutions on a range of arms limitation and disarmament matters.

At Geneva, the 40-nation Conference on Dis-armament, the multilateral negotiating body, continued to make progress in the negotiations on a convention banning the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, although the problem of verification remained unsolved. The Conference continued to experience differences in positions and approaches on such long-standing agenda items as a nuclear-weapons test ban, the nuclear- arms race and nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war, nuclear-weapon-free zones, zones of peace and the relationship between disarmament and development. In view of the need to intensify current multilateral negotiations, the General Assembly welcomed the offer of France to host a conference on chemical weapons in 1989.

The Disarmament Commission, a deliberative body composed of United Nations Member States, submitted to the Assembly at its special session a special report containing specific recommendations on the items included in its agenda.

**PART ONE**

**Political and security questions**

**Chapter III (pp. 100-107)**

**Peaceful uses of outer space**

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND LAW, 100: General aspects, 100; Science and technology aspects, 102; Legal aspects, 104. SPACECRAFT LAUNCHINGS, 107.

During 1988, the United Nations continued to promote international co-operation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Committee on outer space) and its Scientific and Technical and Legal Sub-Committees. In December, the General Assembly endorsed the Committee's recommendations on a variety of issues (resolution 43/56).

## **PART ONE**

### **Political and security questions**

#### **Chapter IV (pp. 108-130)**

##### **Other political questions**

INFORMATION, 108: Mass communication, 108; UN public information, 110. RADIATION EFFECTS, 116. ANTARCTICA, 117. CYPRUS QUESTION, 119: Peace-keeping and humanitarian assistance, 123. INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY, 124: Security Council, 124; General Assembly, 125. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, 126: League of Arab States, 126; Organization of the Islamic Conference, 128; Observer status for OPANAL, 129. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS, 130.

In 1988, questions related to information, effects of atomic radiation and Antarctica were again on the General Assembly's agenda.

The Assembly requested that the 1988 recommendations of the Committee on Information be implemented within existing resources (resolution 43/60 A) and called on Member States, United Nations organizations and other groups to contribute to the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (43/60 B).

As to atomic radiation, the Assembly requested the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to continue to work to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation (43/55).

On the issue of Antarctica, the Assembly expressed its conviction that for any minerals régime on Antarctica to be beneficial to all mankind, it should be negotiated with the full participation of all members of the international community; it regretted that, notwithstanding its previous resolutions calling for a moratorium on negotiations without such full participation, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties had proceeded with negotiations and adopted a convention on the regulation of Antarctic mineral resources activities (43/83 A). The Assembly also appealed to those Parties to exclude South Africa from their meetings (43/83 B).

In the ongoing efforts towards finding a solution to the Cyprus question, the Security Council expressed its strong support for the Secretary-General's good offices mission and, on his recommendation, twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus.

During 1988, the Security Council held a total of 55 meetings and adopted 20 resolutions. The Assembly resumed and concluded its forty-second session and held the major part of its forty-third session, with 152 items on its agenda. It also held its fifteenth special session, devoted to disarmament.

The Assembly requested continued co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (43/2) and the League of Arab States (43/3). It also invited the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in its work in the capacity of observer (43/6).

As there were no new admissions to the United Nations during 1988, its membership remained at 159.

## **PART TWO**

### **Regional questions**

#### **Chapter I (pp. 133-167)**

##### **Africa**

SOUTH AFRICA AND APARTHEID, 133: General aspects, 133; International action to eliminate apartheid, 135; Relations with South Africa, 142; Situation in South Africa, 147; Aid programmes and inter-agency co-operation, 153; Other aspects, 155. SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FRONT-LINE STATES, 158: Situation in Angola, 159; Botswana-South Africa armed incidents, 160; Mozambique-South Africa relations, 161. OTHER STATES, 162: Comorian island of Mayotte, 162; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 163; Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India, 163. UN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, 163. COOPERATION BETWEEN OAU AND THE UN SYSTEM, 164.

In 1988, the United Nations continued to consider and act on a number of political issues in Africa, in particular South Africa's apartheid policy and its aggression against neighbouring States. It was also kept informed about other conflicts among African States.

The question of apartheid was debated by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Special Committee against Apartheid among others. The Assembly adopted a series of resolutions dealing with South Africa's apartheid policies, which showed continuing agreement among the majority of Member States on apartheid and on the Organization's role in the struggle to abolish it.

The Security Council, in June, strongly condemned South Africa for its latest attacks on Botswana. Allegations of aggressive acts by South Africa were made to the Council by Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia. In September, the Council called on South Africa to cease its continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

Following requests by Angola and Cuba concerning the redeployment and withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, the Security Council in December decided to establish under its authority a United Nations Angola Verification Mission and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to implement that decision.

In March, June and November, the Council called on South Africa to stay the execution and commute the death sentences of anti-apartheid activists. In the case of the Sharpeville Six, it urged all States and organizations to use their influence to save their lives. The Assembly reaffirmed the sovereignty of the Comoros over the Indian Ocean island of Mayotte. It also appealed for contributions to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, which provided scholarships for students from the region, and called for continued co-operation with the Organization of African Unity.

## **PART TWO**

### **Regional questions**

#### **Chapter II (pp. 168-176)**

##### **Americas**

CENTRAL AMERICA SITUATION, 168: Nicaragua situation, 170; El Salvador situation, 173. OTHER QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE AMERICAS, 174.

Some progress was made in 1988 towards achieving peaceful solutions to the conflicts in Central America. However, outbreaks of violence continued on both sides of the Nicaragua/Honduras border. The civil war in El Salvador continued, with the Government accusing the insurgents of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional of engaging in terrorist activities aimed at seizing power. Panama accused the United States of, among other things, mobilizing unauthorized military forces on its territory and withholding payments related to use of the Panama Canal, in violation of treaties signed between the two countries.

The Security Council considered the Nicaragua situation without taking action on it. The General Assembly adopted resolutions exhorting the Central American States to continue their efforts to achieve peace in the region and appealing to countries outside the region to facilitate those efforts (resolution 43/24), and calling for an end to the trade embargo against Nicaragua (43/185). The Assembly also called for greater co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (43/4).

## **PART TWO**

### **Regional questions**

#### **Chapter III (pp. 177-200)**

##### **Asia and the Pacific**

EAST ASIA, 177: Korean question, 177. SOUTH-EAST ASIA, 179: Kampuchea situation, 179; International security in South-East Asia, 183; China-Viet Nam dispute, 184. WESTERN AND SOUTH-WESTERN ASIA, 184: Afghanistan situation, 184; Iran-Iraq armed conflict, 188; Shooting down of Iran Air flight 655, 199.

During 1988, intensified diplomatic activity resulted in major breakthroughs in the conflicts between Iran and Iraq, in Afghanistan and in Kampuchea.

In April, Agreements on the Settlement of the Situation Relating to Afghanistan were signed at Geneva and United Nations military observers were sent to monitor the situation. Describing the Agreements as a major step towards a peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan, the Secretary-General said that their full implementation in good faith by all the signatories would serve the goal of regional and world peace.

In August, a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire went into effect in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, followed by direct talks between the parties under the Secretary-General's auspices. United Nations military observers began overseeing the cease-fire and the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized boundaries. During the year, the Security Council again condemned the use of chemical weapons in the war, and decided to consider appropriate action should there be any such future use. It again stressed rapid implementation of its resolution 598(1987) as the only basis for a settlement of the conflict. It made that statement after considering the downing in the Persian Gulf of an Iranian passenger plane by the United States navy.

After the Secretary-General had presented specific proposals for a comprehensive political settlement of the Kampuchean problem, all parties and countries concerned agreed to work towards a solution and to examine key substantive issues. The Secretary-General reported that prospects for peace in the region had improved through initiation of the dialogue.

## **PART TWO**

### **Regional questions**

#### **Chapter IV (pp. 201-266)**

##### **Middle East**

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, 202: Proposed peace conference under UN auspices, 204; UN Truce Supervision Organization, 207. PALESTINE QUESTION, 207: Public information activities, 211; Jerusalem, 212; Assistance to Palestinians, 213. INCIDENTS AND DISPUTES INVOLVING ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL, 217: Israel and Iraq, 217; Lebanon, 217; Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, 226; Israel and Tunisia, 229. TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL, 230: The Palestinian uprising, 235; Fourth Geneva Convention, 239; Deportation of Palestinians, 241; Palestinian detainees, 243; Israeli settlements, 244; Golan Heights, 245; Israeli measures against educational institutions, 248; Economic and social conditions of Palestinians, 249. PALESTINE REFUGEES, 251: UN Agency for Palestine refugees, 251.

Throughout 1988, the United Nations continued its efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East situation. The year was a decisive one for the Palestinian freedom struggle, as the popular uprising by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip-known as intifadah- which began in December 1987 against Israeli occupation, gathered momentum.

The United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (Committee on Israeli practices) and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian rights) reported on the deteriorating conditions in the territories. The latter Committee continued to press for the implementation of its original (1976) recommendations -on the rights of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property and to achieve self-determination, national independence and sovereignty in Palestine-and for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices. Al-though by the end of the year sufficient agreement on the terms for a conference did not exist, there was growing international recognition that such a step was essential for a political solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Accordingly, the General Assembly called again for the convening of such a conference and the participation of all parties to the conflict on an equal footing, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) (resolution 43/176). Meanwhile, the Palestine National Council declared a State of Palestine, a move which the General Assembly acknowledged in December (43/177).

The epicentre of the Middle East crisis, the question of Palestine, continued to depend on solving such complex questions as the status of Jerusalem, the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Conventions to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and the relationship between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The Assembly re-affirmed that the question of Palestine was the core of the Middle East conflict and that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace would be achieved without the full exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable national rights-including the right to return to their homes and property and to achieve self-determination, national independence and sovereignty.

By two January resolutions, the Security Council demanded that Israel desist from deporting Palestinians from the occupied territories (resolutions 607(1988) and 608(1988)). Human rights conditions in the territories were addressed by the Commission on Human Rights.

The cycle of violence in Lebanon continued, with that country repeatedly requesting the convening of the Security Council in response to armed Israeli incursions into its territory. The Council was, however, unable to take effective action due to the repeated negative vote of a permanent member. The Council twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, as well as the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, deployed since 1974 to secure the Israeli-Syrian border. In July, the Council condemned the abduction on 17 February in southern Lebanon of Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, a military observer of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, and demanded his immediate release (618(1988)).

The Council also convened in April after the assassination in Tunis of Khalil al-Wazir, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, and condemned the aggression against the sovereignty of Tunisia, urging Member States to prevent such acts (611(1988)).

In response to the emergency situation in the West Bank and Gaza, the United Nations increased its assistance to the Palestinians. The United Nations Development Programme earmarked an additional \$4 million from its Special Programme Resources, and appeals for funds from the international donor community received substantial response. In consultation with PLO, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) prepared urgent proposals for improving the infrastructure of the refugee camps and for seeking funds of approximately \$65 million. UNRWA maintained its assistance to over 2.2 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In February and March 1988, the Assembly considered a move by the United States to close the PLO Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York and urged it to desist from taking action inconsistent with its international legal obligations. In May, the Assembly called on the United States to submit the dispute to arbitration, thereby endorsing an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

## **PART TWO**

### **Regional questions**

#### **Chapter V (pp. 267-314)**

#### **Regional economic and social activities**

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION, 267. AFRICA, 268: Economic and social trends, 268; Activities in 1988, 269; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 281. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 282: Economic and social trends, 283; Activities in 1988, 285; Organizational questions, 288. EUROPE, 288: Economic trends, 289; Activities in 1988, 289. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 295: Economic trends, 296; Activities in 1988, 297; Co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, 305; Special plan of economic co-operation for Central America, 306. WESTERN ASIA, 309: Economic and social trends, 309; Activities in 1988, 311; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 314.

The five United Nations regional commissions continued their efforts to promote economic and social development in their respective regions during 1988.

Four of the commissions held their regular sessions in April—the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) did not meet in a regular session but held a special session on 8 June.

Several resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly in 1988 concerning the commissions. The resolutions covered a special plan of economic co-operation for Central America (42/231); cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (43/5); and the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (43/179). Among resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council pertaining to the commissions were: the co-ordination of drug control activities in Africa (1988/11); and the Khartoum Declaration: Towards a Human-focused Approach to Socio-economic Recovery and Development in Africa (1988/66). The question of Israel's membership in ECE was again deferred (decision 1988/172).

## **PART THREE**

### **Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter I (pp. 317-331)**

#### **Development policy and international economic co-operation**

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 317: Development and economic cooperation, 317. ECONOMIC SURVEYS AND TRENDS, 325. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 326. RURAL DEVELOPMENT, 327. SPECIAL ECONOMIC AREAS, 328: Developing countries, 328.

Continuing instability in the world economy, particularly in exchange and interest rates, following the sudden decline in equity prices in October 1987 was a major subject of discussion in several United Nations bodies during 1988. An overall slow-down in growth of the global economy was predicted at the beginning of the year; modest prosperity was achieved instead, but it was highly uneven and major imbalances persisted, which most affected the debt-distressed developing countries where long-term improvements had already been interrupted by the severity of their economic problems.

In December, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (1991-2000), with a view to finalizing the strategy for adoption in 1990 (resolution 43/182). Various organizations of the United Nations system were asked to contribute to the preparatory process. Having considered the Secretary-General's report on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000, the Assembly requested him to update the report so as to enhance its utility as a background document for the strategy's preparation (43/194).

Also in December, the Assembly urged the international community to create, as a priority, a supportive international economic environment for growth and development that would reinforce the efforts of developing countries to revitalize their development process and eradicate poverty (43/195). It also reaffirmed the validity of the official development assistance target, established at 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries, and appealed to donor countries to achieve the target (43/197).

The World Economic Survey 1988 reviewed main international economic developments and included a comprehensive analysis of the global effects of the indebtedness and fiscal imbalances of developed countries, particularly as they affected the development of developing countries. The process of economic reform in the centrally planned economies and China was also analysed. The Trade and Development Report, 1988 also discussed debt, payment imbalances and economic growth and addressed the role of services in the world economy.

In April, the Committee for Development Planning found that prospects for the world economy were clouded by market volatility and the uncertainty surrounding unsustainable trends. There were also uncertainties about how to reduce fiscal imbalances among developed market-economy countries, whether international trade would become more or less protectionist and what would be the future of net capital flows to developing countries.

The special development problems of both the least developed countries (LDCs) and island developing countries were highlighted as preparations began for the Second United Nations Conference on LDCs, to be held in 1990. Technical co-operation and public administration issues also received attention, with human resources development being increasingly linked to economic growth.

## **PART THREE**

### **Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter II (pp. 332-360)**

#### **Operational activities for development**

GENERAL ASPECTS, 332: Financing of operational activities, 336; Inter-agency cooperation, 337. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 337: UNDP Governing Council, 339; UNDP operational activities, 339; Programme planning and management, 344; Financing, 347; Administrative questions, 353. OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION, 354: UN programmes, 354; United Nations Volunteers, 357; Technical co-operation among developing countries, 359. UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, 360.

In 1988, some \$7 billion in concessional loans and grants was made available to developing countries through the United Nations system, representing 14 per cent of total official development assistance to those countries from all sources during the year. Following its consideration of the annual report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on United Nations operational activities, the General Assembly, in December, invited members of the organs and organizations of the system to address operational activities for development in their governing bodies, with a view to arriving at a co-ordinated and system-wide approach to the issue.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) registered a record year in 1988 with total income of \$1.2 billion. Expenditures during the year from UNDP central resources totalled \$1.1 billion, of which \$832 million was spent on field programme activities. Following a mid-term review of resources for the fourth programming cycle (1987-1991), the UNDP Governing Council made additional programme allocations of \$490 million to country and intercountry indicative planning figures and \$110 million to Special Programme Resources.

The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) had 953 projects under execution in 1988 with total delivery of \$149.4 million. In line with its emphasis on human resources development, there was a significant rise in expenditures for training and more stress on management development and technical training. A considerable increase in the United Nations Population Fund's share of DTCD's programme enabled DTCD to resume active involvement in statistics and population-related activities.

The United Nations Volunteers programme expanded in 1988 with an estimated 1,534 volunteers in service at the end of the year, supported by the Special Voluntary Fund.

In 1988, project expenditures by the United Nations Capital Development Fund totalled \$34 million, and \$74.9 million was approved in new commitments.

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### **Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter III (pp. 361-402)**

#### **Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief**

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 361: Critical economic situation in Africa, 361; Countries and areas in other regions, 377; Front-line and other bordering States, 380. DISASTERS, 381: Review of disaster and emergency assistance, 381; Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 383; Disaster relief efforts, 385; Disaster preparedness and prevention, 394. EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE, 395.

Countries facing severe economic difficulties and those requiring aid for reconstruction, rehabilitation and development continued to receive special assistance from the United Nations system during 1988. Several countries required assistance in the aftermath of natural or man-made disasters.

During the year, the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 was carried out. In November, the General Assembly adopted the conclusions of the mid-term review and appraisal and decided to conduct a final review and appraisal in 1991 (resolution 43/27).

In December, the Assembly urgently appealed to all international organizations to increase assistance in response to the reconstruction, economic recovery and development needs of Benin, the Central African Republic, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Madagascar and Vanuatu (43/211), all of which were facing special economic and financial difficulties. The Assembly also requested continued assistance for Chad (43/205) and Somalia (43/206).

The United Nations system, particularly the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, continued to assist countries stricken by disasters. The Assembly, in October, requested the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to assist Bangladesh to strengthen its capacity to assess, predict, prevent and mitigate natural disasters (43/9). Also in October, States were called on to assist Jamaica following hurricane Gilbert in September (43/7) and to respond urgently to the Sudan's needs following torrential rain and floods in August (43/8). The Assembly also urged States to contribute generously to relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and other countries affected by hurricane Joan which struck in October (43/17).

In February (resolution 1988/2) and May (1988/3), the Economic and Social Council called on the international community to support locust and grasshopper control activities undertaken by African countries; that request was echoed by the Assembly in December (resolution 43/203). Both the Assembly and the Council (resolutions 43/207 and 1988/50, respectively) requested continued assistance for Lebanon in its reconstruction and development efforts. In July, the Council also urged Member States to contribute to the United Nations effort to assist the people of Afghanistan (1988/52), while the Assembly, in December, called for assistance to Mozambique (43/208).

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#### **Chapter IV (pp. 403-426)**

#### **International trade, finance and transport**

UNCTAD VII FOLLOW-UP, 403. INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 403: Trade policy, 404; Trade promotion and facilitation, 408; Commodities, 410; Services, 412; Consumer protection, 412. FINANCE, 413: Financial policy, 413. TRANSPORT, 419: Maritime transport, 419. PROGRAMME AND FINANCES OF UNCTAD, 423: Organizational questions, 425.

Although global trade expanded rapidly in 1988, growth was largely concentrated in the developed market-economy countries. Some areas of the world, particularly countries of Africa and Latin America, continued to perform unsatisfactorily, due mainly to their debt burden and the economic disorder caused by it. Prices of primary commodities showed some improvement, enhancing the import capacity of some commodity producers, but that was more than offset by a large increase in the price of manufactures.

Two landmarks in international trade during the year gave cause for renewed optimism. First, negotiations under the Global System of Trade Preferences were successfully concluded, which, it was hoped, would be a catalyst for creating a potentially dynamic preferential market among developing countries, stimulating global trade and making developing countries more important trading partners for industrialized countries. Secondly, the final obstacle towards implementing the Common Fund for Commodities was overcome and the Agreement was expected to come into force in 1989.

The gravity of the debt problem, which dominated the relationship between the developed and the developing countries, was discussed by the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and by the General Assembly. In December, the Assembly noted that it was essential to reaffirm the shared responsibility of all parties involved and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts towards a common understanding on a solution (resolution 43/198). Following consideration of a report of the Secretary-General on international monetary issues, the Assembly requested him to monitor the international monetary situation and provide information on proposals for convening a conference on the topic (43/187).

In the area of international transport, seaborne trade and maritime transport improved in 1988 as the world economy showed signs of recovery and the price of oil fell. However, the disequilibrium between demand and supply of tonnage remained a serious problem for the industry. Developing countries were also plagued by the high proportion of freight costs to cost, insurance and freight import values as compared to that for developed market-economy countries.

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**Chapter V (pp. 427-435)**

**Transnational corporations**

DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT, 427. STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING, 428. COMMISSION ON TNCs, 428. CENTRE ON TNCs, 431.

Transnational corporations (TNCs) continued to be major players in the world economy. Worldwide flows of foreign direct investment continued to expand in 1988, but most were directed towards the developed economies, particularly the United States and Western Europe. A significant development was the emergence of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as prospective hosts for foreign direct investment.

The Commission on TNCs in April discussed, among other issues, the activities of TNCs in South Africa and Namibia, TNCs and issues relating to the environment, transnational banks in developing countries and the activities of the Centre on TNCs and its joint units established with the regional commissions. The Commission's Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts in March discussed international accounting issues.

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#### **Chapter VI (pp. 436-444)**

#### **Natural resources, energy and cartography**

NATURAL RESOURCES, 436: Exploration, 436; Mineral resources, 437; Water resources, 437. ENERGY, 438: Energy resources development, 438; New and renewable energy sources, 440; Nuclear energy, 442. CARTOGRAPHY, 444.

During 1988, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration continued to assist developing countries in natural resources exploration and development. It became operational in the Asia region with projects in China and the Philippines.

In December, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to outline a programme of action to accelerate the exploration and development of the energy resources of developing countries and to undertake appropriate studies and analyses (resolution 43/193). It endorsed the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and urged members of the Committee to consider further measures to strengthen United Nations activities in that area (43/192).

In October, the Assembly urged all States to strive for international co-operation in carrying out the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency and in applying measures to strengthen the safety of nuclear installations (43/16).

In May the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations adopted at the Fifth (1987) United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (decision 1988/116).

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#### **Chapter VII (pp. 445-451)**

##### **Science and technology**

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 445: Resource mobilization, 445; UN Fund for Science and Technology for Development, 445. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, 447: Advisory Committee, 447; Centre for Science and Technology, 447; Co-ordination in the UN system, 448. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, 448: Draft code of conduct, 449. BRAIN DRAIN, 450. RELATED QUESTIONS, 451.

The United Nations continued in 1988 to strengthen the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries by mobilizing financial resources, encouraging the flow of technology to those countries and upgrading institutional arrangements. The framework of these efforts was, as in previous years, the 1979 Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. Preparations for the Programme's end-of-decade review were carried out by the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and other United Nations bodies.

The Centre and the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination proposed policy guidelines for harmonizing activities in science and technology within the United Nations system. The Advisory Committee met in September 1988 and warned that the debt crisis could affect investment in science and technology in developing countries.

The United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development finished its second year of operation, providing technical advisory services to the United Nations Development Programme, in addition to being a multilateral funding mechanism for science and technology activities.

Consultations on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology continued, but differences on some outstanding issues remained.

Transfer of technology continued to be a focus of various activities by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The problem of the reverse transfer of technology, or brain drain, was the subject of a meeting of government experts in March. The General Assembly, in resolution 43/184, requested the UNCTAD Secretary-General to take into account the experts' recommendations in the future work of the UNCTAD Committee on Transfer of Technology.

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### **Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter VIII (pp. 452-471)**

##### **Environment**

GENERAL ASPECTS, 452: International co-operation, 452; UNEP programme, 452; Environmental education and training, 454; UNEP Fund, 455. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES, 456: Environment and development, 456; Environmental monitoring and assessment, 458; Protection against harmful products and pollutants, 459; Global climate, 462; Ecosystems, 464; Technical co-operation, 470.

Environmental problems, including global warming and depletion of the ozone layer, became increasingly prominent in the international public debate and political agenda in 1988. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) continued its efforts to monitor and assess those problems and to protect the Earth's environment. An international conference held in Canada addressed the growing evidence that industrial gases might be responsible for global warming. The General Assembly, by resolution 43/212, urged States to prohibit all trans-boundary movement of toxic and dangerous wastes carried out without the prior consent of the importing country's authorities. The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1988/71, stressed the importance of the active participation of all Governments in preparing for the global convention on trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes.

The UNEP Governing Council held its first special session in March, at Nairobi, Kenya, focusing on the system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1990-1995. UNEP continued its various activities in conserving biodiversity and protected areas, controlling soil erosion and forest loss, protecting the marine environment and collecting information on such topics as air and water quality, food contamination and ozone depletion.

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#### **Chapter IX (pp. 472-483)**

#### **Population and human settlements**

FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1984 CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, 472. UN POPULATION FUND, 472. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 476: Human settlements activities, 477.

In 1988, the world population reached 5.2 billion; the United Nations estimated that it would grow by more than 90 million each year during the 1990s, with more than 90 per cent of the growth taking place in the developing countries, where about one third of the population was homeless. The United Nations Population Fund had programmes and projects in 127 developing countries and continued to focus on the needs of 56 priority countries. At the end of 1988, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements was carrying out 219 projects in 94 countries.

The General Assembly adopted resolutions in December on the 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (43/180) and on a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (43/181).

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#### **Chapter X (pp. 484-586)**

##### **Human rights**

DISCRIMINATION, 484: Racial discrimination, 484; Other aspects of discrimination, 491 CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, 498: Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol, 498; Self-determination of peoples, 499; Rights of detained persons, 508; Disappearance of persons, 521; Other aspects of civil and political rights, 523. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, 526: Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 526; Interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, 528; Right to development, 529; Right to food, 530; Right to own property, 531; Right to adequate housing, 533; Popular participation and human rights, 534. ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 534: National institutions for human rights protection, 536; UN machinery, 537; Public information activities, 538; Advisory services, 540; International human rights instruments, 542; Fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 547; Electoral processes, 549; Regional arrangements, 549; Responsibility to promote and protect human rights, 551; New international humanitarian order, 552; International co-operation in human rights, 553; Displaced persons and humanitarian assistance, 554. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, 554: Africa, 555; Asia and the Pacific, 562; Europe and the Mediterranean, 568; Latin America and the Caribbean, 568; Middle East, 575; Other alleged human rights violations, 577; Mass exoduses, 577; Genocide, 579; Other aspects of human rights violations, 579. OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, 580: Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 580; Rights of the child, 581; Youth and human rights, 582; Sexual minorities, 583; Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, 583; Human rights and science and technology, 583; Human rights of disabled persons, 586; Human rights of the individual and international law, 586.

During 1988, the United Nations continued to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms world-wide and to curtail their violations.

Protection of detained persons was a substantial part of the United Nations work in human rights. In December, the General Assembly adopted the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (resolution 43/173). The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances continued to investigate cases of such violations, while the Working Group on Slavery, re-named the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, continued to examine issues related to slavery-like practices.

Work progressed on draft declarations concerning the unacknowledged detention of persons; freedom and non-discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own; independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors; the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms; the rights of indigenous peoples; and the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

There was also progress on the elaboration of a convention on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families, as well as on a draft body of principles and guarantees for the protection of mentally ill persons and for the improvement of mental health care. Meanwhile, a

draft convention on the rights of the child was adopted in first reading. Work also began on the elaboration of a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

The Economic and Social Council decided in May that mandates of special rapporteurs on thematic issues should be for two years and that they should continue to report annually (decision 1988/129). The Council also recommended that the General Assembly proclaim an international year of the world's indigenous populations (resolution 1988/37).

In December, the Assembly launched a World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights (43/128) and adopted a resolution in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (43/90). Activities continued under the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights became operational in 1988.

The Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth session, held in February/March, examined situations involving alleged violations of human rights on a large scale in several countries, as well as cases involving mercenaries and mass exoduses, and the implications of scientific and technological developments for human rights. Its deliberations resulted in the adoption of 78 resolutions and 7 decisions. Its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its fortieth session, held in August/September, adopted 40 resolutions and 13 decisions.

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#### **Chapter XI (pp. 587-600)**

#### **Health, food and nutrition**

HEALTH, 587. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 593: Food problems, 593; Food aid, 597; Agricultural development, 599. NUTRITION, 599.

During 1988, the United Nations continued to respond to the international problems relating to health, food and nutrition. The spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) posed a greater threat to human health; the World Health Organization reported a 15-fold increase over a four-year period. In October, the General Assembly urged continued support for the world-wide struggle against AIDS (resolution 43/15).

At the mid-point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), the Economic and Social Council, in May, reiterated the need to launch a special global awareness and fund-raising campaign to give added momentum to the Decade (resolution 1988/45). The Assembly, in December, stressed that, for the second half of the Decade, emphasis should be placed on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons (43/98).

For the second consecutive year, world food consumption exceeded production, threatening food security and raising prices. In May, the World Food Council adopted the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger in the World, calling for an urgent review of the efforts made to date in reducing hunger. In December, the Assembly called for the strengthening of technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture (43/190). The Assembly also urged the international community to increase aid to developing countries with the aim of increasing food production, thereby stimulating economic growth and social progress (43/191).

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#### **Chapter XII (pp. 601-614)**

#### **Human resources, social and cultural development**

HUMAN RESOURCES, 601: Education and literacy, 602; UN research and training institutes, 602. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 606: Social aspects of development, 606; Crime prevention and criminal justice, 609; Cultural development, 614.

During 1988, United Nations bodies and agencies continued to promote human resources development, social and cultural development, literacy, crime prevention and criminal justice. The year marked the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations programme in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reviewed its experience in human resources development since 1970, drawing broad conclusions regarding the evolving nature of such development and technical co-operation needs, as well as the longer-term sustainability and impact of institutions after UNDP support had ended. Under social development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, in 1989, a proposed date and comprehensive outline of a possible programme for an international year of the family (resolution 43/135).

The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its tenth session (Vienna, 22-31 August 1988) focused on the implementation of conclusions and recommendations of the Seventh (1985) United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and on preparations for the Eighth (1990) Congress.

In January, the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997), proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1986, was launched by the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). As the lead agency, UNESCO continued to make preparations for International Literacy Year (1990).

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#### **Chapter XIII (pp. 615-639)**

##### **Women**

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, 615: Implementation of the Nairobi Strategies, 615. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT, 625: UN Development Fund for Women, 629. STATUS OF WOMEN, 630. ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, 636: Convention on discrimination against women, 636.

In 1988, the United Nations continued the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted in 1985 to overcome obstacles to the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985).

At its March session, the Commission on the Status of Women considered several issues concerning women and development, including the economic aspects of women in development and the problems of rural women. It recommended a number of draft resolutions and decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Council, in May, endorsed a comprehensive reporting system to monitor, review and appraise the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies (resolution 1988/22). The system was also endorsed by the General Assembly in December (resolution 43/101) when it emphasized the importance of integrating women into the development process and called on Member States to establish targets to increase women's participation in professional and decision-making positions in their countries.

In July, the Council urged Governments to provide women with adequate education and training facilities and requested United Nations development agencies to pay particular attention to the role of women in rural development, especially in the areas of food, water supply, access to credit facilities and appropriate technologies (1988/29).

The United Nations Development Fund for Women continued to provide resources for plans and projects in developing regions in two priority areas-serving as a catalyst to ensure women's involvement in development activities and supporting innovative and experimental activities benefiting women. In December, the Assembly stressed the importance of strengthening the Fund's technical and financial capacities and invited Governments and others to consider making substantial contributions (43/102).

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered 11 initial reports and two second periodic reports of States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on their implementation of the Convention. By the end of the year, the Convention had received 95 signatures and 95 accessions.

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### **Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XIV (pp. 640-657)**

#### **Children, youth and aging persons**

CHILDREN, 640: UN Children's Fund, 640. YOUTH, 650: Follow-up to International Youth Year (1985), 650. AGING PERSONS, 654: Implementation of the Plan of Action, 654.

During 1988, some 14 million children died in the developing countries, most of them from the effects of frequent infection and prolonged under-nutrition. In an effort to reduce infant and child mortality and improve the quality of life for children, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to pursue its child survival and development strategy, which incorporated immunization and primary health-care programmes; activities to control diarrhoeal diseases through the use of oral rehydration therapy, safe water supply and improved sanitation; support for breastfeeding and growth monitoring, improved nutrition and food security; and efforts to provide basic urban services and meet the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances. Basic education, maternal health care and activities to improve the status of women in development were also among the crucial components of UNICEF'S strategy. During the year, UNICEF expended \$400 million on programmes in 121 countries and territories, mostly in developing regions. At its 1988 session (18-29 April), the UNICEF Executive Board adopted 25 resolutions covering the full range of the Fund's activities.

The serious education and unemployment problems facing young people were considered by the General Assembly, which, in December, called on all States, United Nations bodies and governmental and non-governmental organizations to give priority to measures supporting education and employment opportunities for young people, and requested the Secretary-General and youth organizations to improve existing channels of communication between youth and the United Nations (resolution 43/94). It also requested that priority be given to the follow-up to International Youth Year (1985) and that the Secretary-General consider including the United Nations Youth Fund among the programmes eligible for funding through the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. Also in December (43/136), the Assembly invited all States to submit their views on measures that should be taken to implement the principles and objectives of the 1965 Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. Member States also recognized the needs of an increasing number of elderly people, aged 60 years and over. In December, the Assembly stressed the need to accelerate implementation of the 1982 International Plan of Action on Aging, and called on specialized agencies, regional commissions and other funding organizations to continue their support for activities related to the question of aging (43/93). It also recommended that aging be a priority theme in the medium-term plan starting in 1992 and in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000). It appealed to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging.

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#### **Chapter XV (pp. 658-676)**

#### **Refugees and displaced persons**

UNHCR PROGRAMME AND FINANCES, 658: Programme policy, 658; Financial and administrative questions, 662. REFUGEE ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION, 662: Assistance, 662.

While the number of refugees swelled to over 12 million in 1988, some events occurred that offered hope for solutions for nearly half the world's refugee population. The signing of an agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan created an opportunity for millions of Afghans, constituting the world's largest refugee population, to return to their country, and the return of more than 80,000 Ugandans from the Sudan was the largest such movement anywhere in the world. Progress was made towards securing the independence of Namibia, which in turn paved the way for the organized return home of several thousand Namibians. Other large refugee repatriation movements in 1988 included Burundians, Chadians, Ethiopians, Mozambicans and Zimbabweans; Iraqi Kurds; Sri Lankan Tamils; and Central Americans.

The impact of those positive achievements was qualified, however, by an increase in the number of refugees and asylum-seekers world-wide. This was especially true in Africa, where hundreds of thousands of Somalis and Sudanese sought refuge in Ethiopia, and several thousand Ethiopians, Mozambicans and Sudanese fled to neighbouring countries. Those same tendencies also occurred in South-East Asia, where the number of asylum-seekers rose by more than 11 per cent over 1987, and in Europe, where the number increased by almost one third.

While more States acceded to the major international instruments on refugees, bringing the total number of signatories to 106 to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, or both, there was also an increase in actions by States that deteriorated the plight of asylum-seekers, posing a threat to the humanitarian institution of asylum.

The General Assembly endorsed the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted by the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, which called for international action in the fields of protection, assistance, refugee aid and development, emergency preparedness, public information and mobilization of resources to deal with the deteriorating humanitarian situation in southern Africa (resolution 43/116). The Assembly also welcomed decisions to hold conferences on Indo-Chinese (43/119) and Central American (43/118) refugees in 1989.

The Nansen Medal, awarded since 1954 in honour of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, went in 1988 to Syed Munir Hussain, Secretary of the States and Frontier Regions Ministry of Pakistan from 1982 to 1987. The Medal was awarded for his supervision of the world's largest refugee assistance programme-the Afghan refugee relief operation-for the Pakistani Government.

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#### **Chapter XVI (pp. 677-697)**

##### **Drugs of abuse**

Drug abuse and international control, 677; Supply and demand, 685; Conventions, 696; Organizational questions, 696.

The abuse of drugs remained a serious threat to all countries and segments of society in 1988. Health hazards were heightened by a trend towards the simultaneous consumption of two or more drugs and by the emergence of more potent narcotic substances. In its annual report, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) stated that the illicit production and trafficking of drugs by internationally linked criminal organizations continued to undermine the integrity of national economies and imperil the security of some countries. During the year, heavy emphasis was placed on bringing to justice the master-minds of criminal syndicates involved in the illicit production, manufacture and distribution of drugs.

In an effort to address the upsurge in illicit trafficking and associated criminal activity, work continued throughout 1988 on preparing a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was convened at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December and adopted the text of the Convention, which was opened for signature on 20 December.

The General Assembly strongly condemned the involvement of children in drug trafficking and urged the establishment of national and international programmes to protect children from the illicit consumption of drugs and from involvement in illicit production and trafficking (resolution 43/121).

The Economic and Social Council recommended follow-up activities to the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (resolution 1988/9), including the establishment of an international drug assessment system and the convening of a second interregional meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies to promote implementation of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Trafficking.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the principal policy-making body of the United Nations on drug control issues, considered matters relating to the reduction of illicit demand and drug law enforcement, and made recommendations to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. INCB continued its evaluation and overall supervision of the implementation of drug control treaties.

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### **Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XVII (pp. 698-702)**

##### **Statistics**

During 1988, the Statistical Office of the United Nations continued to focus on further developing the System of National Accounts, revising and harmonizing international economic classifications, improving the demographic, social and environment statistics of developing countries and pursuing its technical co-operation activities, particularly training activities related to a future population and housing census.

In June, the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination discussed policy issues and other matters relating to United Nations statistical activities. The Secretary-General issued a number of reports for consideration by the Statistical Commission in 1989. The Commission, which meets biennially, did not meet in 1988.

In July, the Economic and Social Council, in decision 1988/181, took note of a number of reports on international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, which were of relevance to the United Nations work in the field of statistics.

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### **Economic and social questions**

#### **Chapter XVIII (pp. 703-716)**

##### **Institutional arrangements**

RESTRUCTURING QUESTIONS, 703: Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, 705; Other organizational matters, 707. CO-ORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM, 710. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, 714: Work programmes of General Assembly's Second and Third Committees, 714; International decades, 715.

In 1988, a Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council completed an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields. The Chairman of the Commission reported that it had diagnosed the problems but much ground remained to be covered on the means for effective and practical reform.

In December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/174 reviewing the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations in the economic and social fields and requesting the Secretary-General to seek the views of all Member States.

The Economic and Social Council, meanwhile, reviewed its structure and functioning. In July, the Council adopted resolution 1988/77, which set forth measures aimed at revitalizing its policy formulation, monitoring, operational activities, co-ordination, working methods and organization of work. The Council also adopted guidelines for the selection of subjects for and the timing of international decades and the procedures for proclaiming them (1988/63).

The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) held Joint Meetings in July on the response of the United Nations system to development problems.

## **PART FOUR**

### **Trusteeship and decolonization**

#### **Chapter I (pp. 719-756)**

#### **Questions relating to decolonization**

1960 DECLARATION ON COLONIAL COUNTRIES, 719. OTHER GENERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING NSGTs, 735. COLONIAL TERRITORIES, 738.

The subject of decolonization continued to be actively pursued by the United Nations throughout 1988, in particular by the General Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Committee on colonial countries). The Committee examined the status of the implementation of the Declaration by international organizations as well as action by foreign economic and military interests to impede it.

The Committee examined other general decolonization questions and made recommendations on the situations in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (see next chapter); Namibia (see PART FOUR, Chapter III); and other Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as East Timor, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), New Caledonia and Western Sahara, as well as a number of small island Territories, mostly under the administration of the United Kingdom or the United States. The question of Puerto Rico was also considered.

The General Assembly requested the Committee to continue seeking means to implement the Declaration on independence for colonial countries (resolution 43/45) and reaffirmed that the United Nations system ought to contribute to its implementation (43/30).

The Assembly called for wider dissemination of information on decolonization (43/46) and requested administering Powers to continue transmitting information on their Territories to the Secretary-General as prescribed in the Charter of the United Nations (43/28). Those Powers were also urged to safeguard the right of colonial peoples to the natural resources of their Territories (43/29).

The Assembly condemned military activities and arrangements in colonial Territories as detrimental to the rights and interests of colonial peoples and called for an end to such activities (decision 43/410). States were again invited to make offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories (43/32).

The Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the need for United Nations assistance to the peoples of colonial Territories and their national liberation movements, deplored the collaboration of the International Monetary Fund with South Africa and called on the Fund to cease such operations (resolution 1988/53).

As recommended by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Assembly declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (43/47). It requested the Secretary-General to submit an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century in a world free from colonialism.

## **PART FOUR**

### **Trusteeship and decolonization**

#### **Chapter II (pp. 757-760)**

#### **International Trusteeship System**

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 757. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM, 759.

In 1988, the Trusteeship Council, on behalf of the Security Council, continued to supervise the one Trust Territory remaining under the International Trusteeship System—the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, a strategic territory administered by the United States.

The Trusteeship Council held its fifty-fifth regular session in New York from 10 May to 19 July. It considered the Administering Authority's annual report, heard 15 petitioners and examined 41 written petitions and 10 communications regarding the Territory. Of its five members (China, France, USSR, United Kingdom, United States), China did not participate.

In May, the Council recommended that the United States, the Administering Authority, in consultation with the constitutional Government of Palau, complete the process of approval of the Compact of Free Association for Palau at the earliest possible date. The Council noted with satisfaction the assurances given by the Administering Authority that it would continue fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement.

## **PART FOUR**

### **Trusteeship and decolonization**

#### **Chapter III (pp. 761-789)**

##### **Namibia**

NAMIBIA QUESTION, 761: Implementation of resolution 435(1978), 771. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, 780. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, 784.

Throughout 1988, the United Nations continued to work for the independence of Namibia, occupied by South Africa and the largest Territory remaining under colonial rule.

During the year, significant progress was made towards national independence and self-determination for Namibia, as Angola, Cuba and South Africa reached agreement in July on the principles for a peaceful settlement of conflicts in south-western Africa. The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), for its part, agreed to comply with the cessation of all hostile acts.

This resulted in the Protocol of Brazzaville, in which Angola, Cuba and South Africa agreed to recommend to the Secretary-General that 1 April 1989 be established as the date for implementation of Security Council resolution 435(1978), the United Nations plan for a peaceful settlement, and to meet in December in New York for signature of the tripartite agreement and for signature by Angola and Cuba of a bilateral agreement.

The Security Council, noting Angola's and Cuba's decision to redeploy and withdraw Cuban troops from Angola, on 20 December established, under its authority, the United Nations Angola Verification Mission for a period of 31 months. The actual signing of the bilateral agreement to redeploy and withdraw troops from Angola took place on 22 December. Also on 22 December, Angola, Cuba and South Africa signed the tripartite agreement, in which they requested the Secretary-General to seek authority from the Security Council to commence implementation of resolution 435(1978) on 1 April 1989. This agreement provided for the departure of South African military forces from Namibia, as provided for in the 1978 resolution, and the co-operation of South Africa and Angola with the Secretary-General to ensure the independence of Namibia through free and fair elections. The agreement further stressed the territorial integrity and inviolability of Namibia's borders and the need for all parties to refrain from the threat or use of force.

At its 1988 session, the General Assembly continued to pursue the objective of independence for Namibia and adopted live resolutions on the question, similar to those of previous years. The Assembly condemned South Africa for its continued illegal occupation of Namibia, reiterated that Namibia was the direct responsibility of the United Nations until independence, and reaffirmed that SWAPO was the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people and that Security Council resolution 435(1978) was the only internationally accepted basis for a peaceful settlement. South Africa was condemned for its imposition of a so-called interim government and for its utilization of Namibian territory as a springboard for armed invasions against neighbouring States, and the Security Council was urged to impose comprehensive and

mandatory sanctions against South Africa (resolution 43/26 A). The Assembly demanded that South Africa comply fully and unconditionally with resolutions of the Security Council relating to Namibia, and rejected attempts to establish a link-age between the independence of Namibia and any extraneous issues (43/26 B). The Assembly approved the work programme of the United Nations Council for Namibia (43/26 C) and re-quested the Council to increase the dissemination of information supporting the cause of Namibia (43/26 D). It appealed for increased contributions to the United Nations Fund for Namibia, urged United Nations organizations to expedite the execution of projects in favour of Namibians, and decided to allocate \$1.5 million from the regular United Nations budget to the Fund (43/26 E). Various United Nations programmes continued to provide assistance to Namibians outside their country, financed primarily by voluntary contributions and administered by the United Nations Fund for Namibia. In 1988, the Fund spent more than \$12.8 million for assistance to Namibia, with 35 States contributing nearly \$8 million.

**PART FIVE**  
**Legal Questions**

**Chapter I (pp. 793-795)**  
**International Court of Justice**

Judicial work of the Court, 793.

In 1988, the International Court of Justice continued to consider four contentious cases and a fifth case was referred to it. The Court delivered one Judgment, one advisory opinion and a number of Orders.

## **PART FIVE**

### **Legal Questions**

#### **Chapter II (pp. 796-805)**

#### **Legal aspects of international political relations**

Maintenance of international peace and security, 796; Peaceful settlement of disputes between States, 798; Good-neighbourliness between States, 800; Draft code of crimes against peace and security, 801; Draft convention against mercenaries, 803; Draft articles on non-navigational uses of international watercourses, 804; Most-favoured-nation clauses, 804.

As part of its continuing efforts to develop legal measures for promoting friendly relations among States, the General Assembly, in December 1988, approved the Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this Field, as drafted by the Special Committee on the topic (resolution 43/51).

Also in December, the Assembly urged States to observe the 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes and stressed the need to settle such disputes through progressive development and codification of international law and through enhancing the role of the United Nations in this field (resolution 43/163). The Assembly decided that its Sixth (Legal) Committee should complete, in 1990, the identification of the elements of good-neighbourliness between States and begin elaborating an international document on strengthening that concept (resolution 43/171 A and B). In addition, the Assembly invited the International Law Commission (ILC) to continue its elaboration of the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind (resolution 43/164) and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries to submit such a draft convention in 1989 (resolution 43/168). ILC also continued drafting articles on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses.

The Assembly considered that, because of its complexity, additional time should be given to Governments for thorough study of draft articles and for determining their respective positions on the procedure for future work on the international law on most-favoured-nation clauses (decision 43/429).

**PART FIVE**

**Legal Questions**

**Chapter III (pp. 806-810)**

**States and international law**

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 806. STATE IMMUNITIES, LIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY, 808. TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS, 809.

The General Assembly, in December 1988, alarmed by repeated violent acts against diplomatic and consular representatives as well as against representatives to international intergovernmental organizations, urged States to ensure their safety and to prevent such acts (resolution 43/167).

The International Law Commission continued work on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier, as well as on international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law.

The Secretariat continued its depository functions for agreements deposited with the Secretary-General.

**PART FIVE**  
**Legal Questions**

**Chapter IV (pp. 811-817)**  
**Law of the sea**

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 811; Preparatory Commission, 813; Functions of the Secretary-General, 815.

The landmark 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea continued to fulfil its role of establishing a legal order for the seas and oceans. The number of ratifications increased to 37 in 1988 and some 106 States were claiming a territorial sea of 12 nautical miles.

The Secretary-General emphasized that without international law respected by all States, there could be no stable framework for multilateral cooperation in a highly complex world of sovereign nations and conflicting interests. It was natural therefore that States should continue to urge early ratification of, or accession to, the Convention, emphasizing its importance not only for ocean uses and resources, but also for the maintenance of peace and security and the strengthening of international co-operation in many areas.

In November, the General Assembly, by resolution 43/18, noted the progress being made by the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and expressed its satisfaction with the historic 1987 decisions of the Preparatory Commission to register the four pioneer investors sponsored respectively by India, France, Japan and the USSR, and to designate reserved areas for the Authority.

## **PART FIVE**

### **Legal Questions**

#### **Chapter V (pp. 818-850)**

##### **Other legal questions**

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 818: Strengthening the role of the United Nations, 818; Host country relations, 821; Observer status of national liberation movements, 829; Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, 830. INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION, 831: UN Programme for the teaching and study of international law, 833. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, 834: International trade law, 834; Legal aspects of the new international economic order, 849.

In 1988, the United Nations continued to address various aspects of international law and international economic law.

The Assembly requested the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization to give priority to the question of maintaining international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the United Nations role and to continue its work on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States (resolution 43/170).

The Assembly resumed its forty-second (1987) session in 1988 to consider the situation arising from the announced closing by the United States of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Observer Mission to the United Nations under its 1987 Anti-Terrorism Act. In March, the Assembly considered that a dispute existed between the United Nations and the host country concerning the interpretation or application of the 1947 Headquarters Agreement between the United Nations and the United States. It reaffirmed that the PLO mission was covered by the provisions of that Agreement and called on the host country to abide by it (42/229 A). It also decided to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as to whether the United States was obliged to enter into arbitration under the Agreement (42/229 B).

In November, the United States refused an entry visa for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to enable him to participate in the forty-third (1988) session of the Assembly. In December, the Assembly deplored the failure of the host country to respond favourably to its request to reverse the decision (43/48) and decided to consider the question of Palestine at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 13 to 15 December (43/49).

The Assembly recommended that the International Law Commission- responsible for the progressive development and codification of international law-continue working on all topics in its current programme (43/169).

The Assembly also called on States concerned to accord to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or the League of Arab States the facilities, privileges and immunities necessary for their functioning and decided that PLO and the South West Africa People's Organization were entitled to have their communications relating to the General Assembly issued and circulated without intermediary, as official Assembly documents (43/160 B).

Legal aspects of international economic law and the new international economic order continued to be considered by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly. In December, the Assembly adopted and opened for signature or accession the United Nations Convention on International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes, thereby putting the seal on more than 16 years of work by UNCITRAL (43/165). The Assembly recommended that UNCITRAL continue working on the topics in its work programme (43/166) and that the Sixth Committee make a final decision at the forty-fourth (1989) session of the Assembly on the appropriate forum to complete the codification and progressive development of the legal principles and norms relating to the new international economic order (43/162).

## **PART SIX**

### **Administrative and budgetary questions**

#### **Chapter I (pp. 853-876)**

#### **United Nations financing and programming**

UNITED NATIONS FINANCING, 853: Financial situation, 853; Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, 856; UN budget, 858. CONTRIBUTIONS, 863: Scale of assessments, 863; Budget contributions in 1988, 866; Contributions from non-member States, 866. ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING, 866. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES, 869: Programme planning and performance, 869; Programme evaluation, 873. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM, 875.

Throughout 1988, the United Nations continued to grapple with a financial crisis that resulted from the withholding of assessed contributions by a number of Member States to both the Organization's regular budget and to that for peacekeeping operations. The crisis coincided with an expansion of the Organization's responsibilities for peace-keeping, thus placing new strains on its al-ready precarious financial stability. An analysis of the financial situation presented in November by the Secretary-General projected a net short-term deficit of \$319.4 million. One Member State owed a total of \$337.3 million, including nearly \$122.4 million in arrears from previous years. Of the \$1,111 million in contributions to the United Nations regular budget payable by 1 January 1988, \$716.5 million had been collected at the end of 1988, leaving some \$395 million outstanding.

To avoid defaulting on its day-to-day financial commitments, the Organization exhausted both its Working Capital Fund and its Special Account during 1988, and resorted to temporary borrowing from peace-keeping funds.

Appropriations for the 1988-1989 biennium were raised by \$19 million to \$1,789 million by the General Assembly in December (resolution 43/218 A). In-come estimates for 1988-1989 were revised upward by about \$7.1 million to \$344.4 million over 1987 estimates (43/218 B). To finance appropriations for 1989, Member States were assessed \$747 million net of staff assessment (43/218 C).

The Assembly decided that the Secretary-General should prepare his proposed programme budget for 1990-1991 on the basis of a total preliminary estimate of \$1,767,060,000 at 1988 rates. The contingency fund, used to accommodate additional expenditures, was consequently set at 0.75 per cent of the 1990-1991 budget estimates (43/214).

The Assembly approved the scale of assessments for 1989-1991 (43/223 A) and requested the Committee on Contributions to improve the methodology used in the scale's preparation and to seek more comprehensive data on the external debt of Member States (43/223 B). The Assembly also approved a method for collecting assessments from non-member States (43/223 C).

The accounts and financial statements for either the year or biennium ending 31 December 1987, for the United Nations and 80 voluntarily financed programmes, were accepted by the Assembly together with the opinions of the United Nations Board of Auditors (43/216).

Further action was taken during 1988 to improve United Nations programme planning, budgeting and evaluation. By resolution 43/219, the Assembly adopted revisions to the 1984-1989 medium-term plan, extended to 1991. It decided that the next plan would cover 1992-1997, and endorsed a number of recommendations by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the Committee for Programme and Coordination concerning the monitoring and evaluation of United Nations programmes. The Assembly also considered various aspects of the work of JIU (43/221).

## **PART SIX**

### **Administrative and budgetary questions**

#### **Chapter II (pp. 877-894)**

#### **United Nations officials**

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, 877: Staff composition, 877; Staff language training, 882; Staff rules, 883; International Civil Service Commission, 883; Privileges and immunities, 886. STAFF COSTS, 887: Salaries and allowances, 887; Pensions, 889. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, 891: Feasibility of establishing a single administrative tribunal, 892; Administrative Tribunal Judgement on remuneration correction factor, 892. TRAVEL, 893: Official travel, 893; Standard of accommodation for air travel, 893; Contractual agreements, 893. OTHER UN OFFICIALS, 894: Experts and consultants, 894.

In 1988, the Secretary-General presented a detailed plan to reduce the number of posts in the United Nations. The reductions would affect the work of the Organization and the volume of its programmed activities would have to be reduced.

The Organization continued to operate under a recruitment freeze, introduced in 1986 as part of the response to the United Nations financial crisis. However, in February, the Secretary-General introduced limited recruitment where qualified internal candidates could not be found and in departments and offices with high vacancy rates.

The Secretary-General also reported a disturbing overall increase in the number of officials of the United Nations system who had been arrested and detained, or who had disappeared.

The presence and position of women in the Secretariat improved during 1988, despite the limited recruitment policy. The Secretary-General appointed a senior-level woman as a focal point for the action programme to improve the status of women in the Secretariat, and the Economic and Social Council requested each organization in the United Nations system to designate a similar high-level co-ordinator.

The International Civil Service Commission made several recommendations affecting United Nations personnel and submitted a preliminary report on conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories. The General Assembly set out guidelines to be used by the Commission to complete the report (resolution 43/226).

The Secretary-General reported that marked progress in streamlining the Headquarters Joint Appeals Board had resulted in the virtual elimination of the case backlog. The Assembly requested that a fully revised internal justice system be established by the end of 1989 (43/224 B).

## **PART SIX**

### **Administrative and budgetary questions**

#### **Chapter III (pp. 895-902)**

##### **Other administrative and management questions**

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 895: Mandate of the Committee on Conferences, 895; Calendar of meetings, 896; Conference and meeting services, 897; Representation at conferences, 898. DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 899: Documents limitation, 899. UN PREMISES, 900: Conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok, 900. INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTERS, 900: Technological innovations, 900. UN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION, 902.

In 1988, the Committee on Conferences continued to examine ways in which conference resources within the United Nations system could be used more effectively. In December, the General Assembly decided to retain the Committee as a permanent subsidiary organ (resolution 43/222 B). The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure respect for equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations (43/222 E) and appealed to Member States to keep the length of communications to a minimum (43/222 C). The Assembly approved the implementation of phase I of an integrated management information system and the 1989 budget estimate of the International Computing Centre at Geneva (43/217, sections XII and II).