

English
Express

The Yearbook of the United Nations
Yearbook Express

Yearbook of the United Nations
1998



Volume 52



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, 1998

Volume 52

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

Introduction

1. Nearly a decade has passed since the end of the cold war, but the contours of the new era remain poorly understood. Nations large and small are grappling with new responsibilities and new constraints. Unpredictability and surprise have become almost commonplace. Uncertainty exists, in some cases even anxiety, about new roles that may be required of multilateral organizations, and more broadly about their place in the international community. Indeed, the peoples of the United Nations, in whose name the Charter is written, are searching for new ways to define how they are united in community though divided by custom and conviction, power and interests.

2. Notwithstanding the extraordinary achievements of multilateralism during the past half century, too many voices remain unheard, too much pain persists and too many additional opportunities for human betterment are forgone for us to rest satisfied with the way things work today. These still unmet challenges must remain uppermost on the United Nations agenda. The Millennium Assembly to be held in September 2000 affords a unique opportunity for the world's leaders to look beyond their pressing daily concerns and consider what kind of United Nations they can envision and will support in the new century.

3. To facilitate those deliberations, I propose to submit a report to the Millennium Assembly, suggesting to Member States a set of workable objectives and institutional means for the United Nations to meet the challenges of human solidarity in the years ahead. The report will draw on several reviews of recent United Nations conferences scheduled between now and then. It will also benefit from the diverse views and aspirations expressed at a series of global and regional hearings and seminars that I propose to convene—global town meetings, in effect—and which many individual Governments, civil society actors and other groups are also holding.

4. The "quiet revolution" of institutional reforms that I initiated last year was intended to revitalize an organizational machinery that in some respects had been made sluggish and creaky by the effects of the cold war and the North-South confrontation, and to better position it for the highly complex, increasingly interconnected and far more fluid context of the new era. I can say with some satisfaction that the United Nations family today acts with greater unity of purpose and coherence of effort than it did a year ago. The new teamwork is most pronounced within the Secretariat and in its relations with the programmes and funds.

5. The work programme has been organized in four core areas: peace and security, development cooperation, international economic and social affairs, and humanitarian affairs; a fifth, human rights, is designated a cross-cutting issue. In each cluster, an Executive Committee now manages common, cross-cutting and overlapping policy concerns.

6. To integrate the work of the Executive Committees and address matters affecting the Organization as a whole, a cabinet-style Senior Management Group, comprising the leadership from the various United Nations headquarters, has been established. It meets weekly, with members in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi and Rome participating through teleconferencing. A Strategic Planning Unit has been established to enable the Group to consider individual questions on its agenda within broader and longer-term frames of reference. Member States approved my recommendation to create the post of Deputy Secretary-General; in the few short months that Louise Frechette of Canada has occupied this office, it has been demonstrated conclusively how critical it is in augmenting the leadership and management capacity of the Secretariat.

7. The Secretariat itself has been streamlined, through the merging and elimination of units; nearly a thousand posts have been cut, to fewer than 9,000; and the budget has been reduced to less than that of the previous biennium. A task force on human resources management that I convened earlier this year has just submitted its report to me; I will act expeditiously and decisively on its recommendations.

8. Productive working relations within the United Nations system as a whole, including the Bretton Woods institutions, have been expanded and deepened through the Administrative Committee on Coordination. Several concrete instances are documented in this report.

9. In my reform programme, I also recommended that Member States refine or revise a number of institutional practices under their jurisdiction. In the main, the General Assembly decided to defer its consideration of such questions or continue them at the fifty-third session. Still to be approved is the proposal

that specific time limits be adopted for all new mandates, a relatively simple procedure that would significantly enhance the effectiveness of programme activities and the General Assembly's own oversight role. The proposal to adopt a results-based budget system also remains under review. This initiative is of the utmost importance, because no single measure would do more to increase accountability and efficiency in the work of the Organization. Member States are also still studying details of the proposed Development Account, an instrument by which savings from administrative efficiencies would be invested in innovative development projects.

10. Lastly, as part of the endeavour to reinvigorate the United Nations I have made a particular effort to establish a mutually beneficial dialogue with the international business community. Business has a stake in the soft infrastructure that the United Nations system produces—the norms, standards and best practices on which the smooth flow of international transactions depends. Moreover, business is increasingly coming to appreciate that the work of the United Nations on behalf of peace, human rights and development helps lay the stable foundations that the expansion of its own opportunities requires. In turn, the United Nations appreciates that business has the capital, technology and expertise necessary to fuel economic growth, and that its attitude and readiness to cooperate can critically affect the prospects of a wide variety of other objectives. The dialogue is accordingly premised on my conviction that expanding markets and human security can and should go hand in hand.

11. Engagement with the business community parallels the long-standing and increasingly close working relationships the United Nations has with non-governmental organizations. Whether in human rights or the environment, in development, humanitarian assistance or arms limitation, non-governmental organizations are indispensable partners for United Nations efforts at the country level and, in some cases, at policy levels as well. In short, the United Nations is both witness to and participant in the birth of a global civil society.

12. Not long after I proposed my reform agenda to the General Assembly in the summer of 1997, Mr. Ted Turner, Co-Chairman of Time Warner Inc., announced his extraordinary gift of \$1 billion to support United Nations programmes. Never before in the history of philanthropy had a single gift of such magnitude been given for this or any other cause. The necessary institutional arrangements to administer the gift are now in place, and the first set of grants, totalling some \$22 million, have been allocated. The majority of projects funded in this first round were in the areas of children's health, family planning and reproductive health, as well as environmental and climate change. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships has been established within the Secretariat to manage the process of grant allocation and ensure that it remains fully consistent with the Organization's priorities.

13. This unprecedented act of generosity not only makes available new and additional resources for United Nations work on behalf of the world's most vulnerable people and its fragile planetary life support systems. It is also an expression of an entirely new phenomenon: an incipient sense of global citizenship and responsibility.

14. Another sign of change in the global arena this past year was the conclusion of negotiations on the Convention banning antipersonnel landmines and the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Governments conducted the actual negotiations in both cases, and groups of so-called like-minded States provided the core support that led to their adoption; but in both instances a new expression of global people power was manifest: individuals and groups animated by humanitarian and human rights concerns, united by the Internet and supported by world public opinion.

15. One of the most profound challenges that we face as a community of nations is to understand better the emerging socio-economic forces and forms of globalization, to shape them to serve our needs and to respond effectively to their deleterious consequences. There is a great deal of talk today about life in the global village. If that village is to be a truly desirable place for all of us on this planet, it must be embedded in and guided by broadly shared values and principles; its policing functions and the provision of other public goods must be strengthened and made more predictable; and a bridge must be constructed between, in effect, the Dow Jones index and the human development index.

16. No organization in the world is better suited to contribute to these ends than the United Nations, because no other enjoys its scope and legitimacy; but to move forward we need to shed baggage, create new visions and devise new ways to achieve them. We have taken the first vital steps towards transformation, but we have some way to go before we become a truly effective twenty-first-century organization. Over the next two years, leading up to the Millennium Assembly, I shall solicit the views of Member States, civil society actors and other interested groups and individuals on the best way to get from here to there.

I. Achieving peace and security

17. The world has been mercifully free from large-scale regional conflict over the past 12 months. Many local wars have continued, however, and new ones have broken out, including, for the first time in this decade, a war over territory between two neighbouring States, Eritrea and Ethiopia. While there have been some important successes for the international community, including the restoration of the democratically elected Government in Sierra Leone, peace in many parts of the world remains precarious. Moreover peace processes in several regions, including some to which the United Nations has devoted extensive resources over a long period, show a distressing tendency to unravel.

18. Of particular concern is the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process; the turmoil in Afghanistan; the escalation of violence in Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia); the ongoing civil war in the Sudan; the continuing instability and violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the rest of the Great Lakes region; and the return to civil war in Angola. Our efforts in Angola were dealt a severe blow when my Special Representative, Alioune Blondin Beye, was tragically killed in a plane crash on 26 June, together with seven others. The rising tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and other issues is also a major cause of concern, as is the stalemated peace process in Cyprus.

19. The adoption, late in 1997, of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction was an unprecedented achievement. By 31 July 1998, the Convention had been signed by 128 countries and ratified by 30. It is expected to enter into force early next year. Several important States still feel unable to sign it, however, and combatants in several wars continue to use these barbaric weapons. Even where they have ceased doing so, millions of mines planted in earlier years remain in place. They will continue to kill and maim innocent men, women and children for decades.

20. Similarly, the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court at Rome in July, an historic development in the age-long struggle to punish and deter war crimes, has yet to win universal acceptance. Even on the most optimistic assumption it will be some years before the Court begins to discharge its functions. Meanwhile, deplorable acts of brutality continue to be reported from many parts of the world, and all too often the culprits go unpunished.

21. Nor is the human race yet delivered from the threat of nuclear annihilation. In fact we are at a critical moment in the history of efforts to reduce this danger. The successes of previous years, the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, have been called into question this year by the decision of two non-signatories, India and Pakistan, to conduct underground nuclear tests. This has increased the tensions between those two countries and given the world a sombre reminder that non-proliferation cannot be taken for granted.

22. Hardly less alarming is the threat posed by chemical and biological weapons. Here, I am glad to report that in the past year more States have renounced the development and use of the former, while the Convention banning the latter is being gradually strengthened through efforts to elaborate a verification protocol. The fact that some States may be stocking or developing such weapons clandestinely remains a serious threat to world peace, however.

23. The world lived through a period of high tension in February when Iraq seemed set on refusing to comply with its disarmament obligations, and some Member States prepared for military action to enforce compliance. War was averted only by the timely collective action of the international community.

24. The Memorandum of Understanding, which I and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz signed on 23 February, was an effective demonstration of preventive diplomacy. If fully implemented it would set a valuable precedent, proving that by united action the world can indeed prevent conflict, as the founders of the Organization intended. Unfortunately, the situation in Iraq still appears to be far from resolution.

Prevention

25. Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations calls for effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace. Conflict prevention, therefore, should be one of the Organization's deepest commitments, yet there is still too little emphasis on preventive action. Instead, vast resources are spent on efforts to "cure" conflicts, when for many of the victims it is already too late.

26. Preventing potential conflicts from crossing the threshold of violence requires early warning of situations with the potential for crisis, proper analysis, an integrated preventive strategy, and the political will and resources to implement such a strategy.

27. In some cases effective prevention is actually impeded by the traditional focus on external threats to a State's security. Today we recognize that many other threats to human security, such as natural disasters, ethnic tension and human rights violations, may also be sources of conflict. The intimate relationship between social justice, material well-being and peace must also be taken into account if action is to be pursued far enough to prevent local conflicts from escalating and spilling over into the international arena.

28. In its work at the field level, the United Nations has already started to embrace a new holistic concept of security. Its efforts to reduce poverty and promote development and democratization—including electoral assistance and civic education—have gradually become more comprehensive and more integrated. All of these efforts may be described as preventive peacebuilding, since they attack the root causes of many conflicts.

29. If then the determinants of human security include the economic, social and humanitarian prerequisites of human well-being and stability, should not the role of the Security Council also be broadened? Can the Council seriously aspire to making prevention the norm rather than the exception unless it engages with the economic and social developments that influence peace and security with the same energy and seriousness with which it tackles the political ones? Such an approach would imply new forms of cooperation between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as between all the organs of the United Nations and the Member States.

30. Under the Charter, there is a dormant provision that the Economic and Social Council may furnish information and assistance to the Security Council upon a request from the latter (Article 65). As the Security Council is increasingly required to address economic, social and humanitarian crises that threaten global security, it may wish to consider invoking this mechanism. This could help to achieve better communication and coordination between organs of the United Nations whose primary focus is on economic, social and humanitarian affairs.

Diplomacy

31. The role of diplomacy is so central to virtually all United Nations activities that its specific contribution is sometimes overlooked. That is especially true of successful preventive diplomacy. A former Under-Secretary-General once remarked to a television producer who asked where he could make a film about conflict prevention, "If you can film it, it probably is not working!" Indeed, the light of publicity is often turned on only when conflict has become entrenched; and that in itself it often makes compromise more difficult, since leaders fear that concessions made in public will be interpreted as weakness by opponents, or as betrayal by supporters. One does not always have the choice, however. My journey to Baghdad in February was undoubtedly an exercise in preventive diplomacy, but I could not possibly have accomplished it unnoticed.

32. During the past year, often in difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions, the United Nations has been engaged in the sensitive diplomacy of peacemaking, where success in preventing conflict often goes unremarked. I have appointed prominent and skilled diplomats, from the international community as well as the United Nations, to serve as my personal representatives in situations of actual or potential conflict. Their tasks have ranged from information-gathering to mediation.

33. While United Nations missions have achieved notable successes, there are some conflicts where hostility is so intense and distrust so pervasive that no amount of skilful diplomacy will achieve a breakthrough. That has been the case in Afghanistan during the past year. Despite the meetings held in New York by the group of eight concerned countries, and the best efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, the warring Afghan parties have continued to pursue the military option at great humanitarian cost. They have also refused to participate in any meaningful dialogue. In this, they have been regrettably aided and encouraged by outside Powers.

34. Many of the most sensitive and difficult diplomatic initiatives of the United Nations during the year have been undertaken in Africa's trouble spots. In May, in view of continuing violence in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa, I urged the leaders of Burundi and Rwanda to redouble their efforts to build stable peace, national unity and respect for human rights.

35. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I was compelled to withdraw the United Nations investigative team earlier this year because of persistent non-cooperation and harassment from the authorities. I subsequently called on regional Governments to acknowledge the team's findings, which, among other things, raised the possibility that some of the reported violations of human rights could have constituted genocide. I also drew attention to the need for substantial international assistance to help achieve stability in the region.

36. Throughout the year, the United Nations has been assisting the mediator for Burundi, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, while the establishment of the Office of my Representative in Nairobi will enhance the Organization's capacity for preventive action in the subregion as a whole.

37. On the contentious issue of East Timor real progress has been made during the year: an important breakthrough was achieved at the meeting I convened in New York in August between the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal. For the first time since 1975 the prospects for an agreed resolution of the conflict between the East Timorese and Indonesia are hopeful.

38. Earlier this year a new United Nations Political Office was established in Bougainville, the first United Nations political mission to the South Pacific. The quiet diplomacy of peacemaking has also been pursued during the past year in the Middle East, South Asia, Angola, Cambodia, Cyprus, Somalia and Western Sahara.

39. Perhaps the most delicate kind of preventive diplomacy is that which seeks to bring about reconciliation between antagonistic political forces within a country, in the hope of preventing or resolving conflicts which, if left to escalate, might in time become a direct threat to international peace and security. This was the purpose of my mission to Nigeria at the end of June. In such cases, an invitation from the Government of the Member State concerned is an essential prerequisite for involvement.

40. Another sensitive mission was the information-gathering panel of eminent personalities that visited Algeria at my request in July and August. It was made possible by an invitation from the Government of Algeria.

41. Since the causes of conflict are usually regional or local, I believe that regional organizations are particularly well suited to play an important role in early warning and preventive diplomacy. Therefore I am seeking, in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter, to create a real partnership, with a more rational and cost-effective division of labour, between those organizations and the United Nations. This year I established a United Nations liaison office at the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa. We also continued to consolidate our links with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In July I invited the heads of regional organizations to a meeting in New York to discuss concrete steps we can take to improve our cooperation in preventing conflict.

42. The collaboration of the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations also illustrates the close relationship between peacebuilding, development and disarmament. The Organization has helped members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in their efforts to build peace and security in that subregion. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific has provided a valuable forum for meetings on regional confidence- and security-building measures. I trust that the recent decision to strengthen the regional centres in Lome and Lima will lead to similar activity throughout Africa and Latin America.

Preventive deployment

43. Peacekeeping can be a valuable tool for conflict prevention. Peacekeeping forces are generally deployed only after, or during, a conflict, usually under the terms of a ceasefire agreement, their main task being to prevent violence from flaring up again. From there, intellectually, it is only a small step to the deployment of forces to prevent violence from breaking out in the first place, in situations where there is an obvious danger of that happening. Unfortunately, preventive deployment confronts many political obstacles. In general, only the spectacle of actual violence, with all its tragic consequences, convinces the parties to the conflict, potential troop-contributing countries and the Security Council of the utility or necessity of deploying a peacekeeping force.

44. Late in 1992, the Security Council did, however, take the unprecedented decision to establish a presence of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as a preventive measure. The force deployed, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), remains the sole example of a purely preventive United Nations force. The experiment must be counted as a success, inasmuch as war has so far been avoided in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia despite considerable tensions both between it

and its neighbours and between different ethnic groups within the Republic. While no one can guarantee that this relatively favourable state of affairs will continue, the presence of UNPREDEP has undoubtedly had a positive effect, helping to defuse tensions both within the country and in the wider region. This year's crisis in Kosovo underlined the vital role of UNPREDEP in preserving stability. I am consequently glad to report that on 21 July 1998 the Security Council decided, on my recommendation, to authorize an increase in the troop strength of UNPREDEP and to extend its current mandate for a period of six months, until 28 February 1999.

Disarmament

45. My vision of the Organization places disarmament near the centre of its mission of peace and development. I am therefore delighted that the General Assembly supported my decision to re-establish the Department for Disarmament Affairs with an Under-Secretary-General as its head. The Assembly also acted on my recommendation that it review the work of the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee with a view to updating, revitalizing and streamlining their work. Once that task is completed, the reform proposals for the disarmament sector of the Organization will have been fully implemented.

46. The essential role of the United Nations in this area is one of norm-setting and of strengthening and consolidating multilateral principles for disarmament. When we consider how such principles, norms and procedures have fared over the past year, we see a mixed picture, however.

47. We are at a critical moment in the history of efforts to reduce the danger posed by nuclear weapons. Any increase in the number of nuclear-weapon States will have serious implications for peace and security. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, together with the objectives agreed to at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, become universally accepted. Positive developments this year include the issuance of the eight-nation joint declaration on creating a nuclear-weapon-free world, and the establishment of two ad hoc committees in the Conference on Disarmament. One committee will negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; the other will negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear explosive devices.

48. The new review process of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is now in place, and two nuclear-weapon States have ratified the Test-Ban Treaty. In the past year, efforts were also made to consolidate existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, notably those in Africa and in South-East Asia, and to move towards the establishment of another such zone in Central Asia.

49. In the light of the expectation that the international community would take concrete steps towards the further reduction of nuclear weapons, the underground nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan were a highly disturbing development. I have urged those States to refrain from any further nuclear testing, to adhere immediately to the Test-Ban Treaty, to refrain from deploying nuclear weapons, and to freeze their weapons development programmes, as well as the development of missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

50. In the struggle for sustainable peace and development, especially in subregions where state structures are fragile, steps need to be taken to curb the flow of small arms circulating in civil society. It is estimated that 90 per cent of those killed or wounded by light military weapons are civilians and, most shockingly, that 80 per cent of those are women and children.

51. One approach to this problem would be to seek to build a global consensus on monitoring and controlling illicit arms transfers and their links with trafficking in other contraband goods. The holding of a United Nations conference on all aspects of the illicit arms trade in the near future would be an important step in that direction. In 1997, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials was signed, establishing an essential mechanism in the area of arms regulation. I also welcome the initiative taken by the Economic Community of West African States in preparing for a moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of small arms.

52. In pursuing our goal of disarmament, efforts to reduce the supply of weapons are not Report of the Secretary-General enough; reduction in the demand for them is equally, if not more, important.

53. The amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons—a partial ban on landmines—will enter into force in December 1998, and the Ottawa Convention—a comprehensive ban—is

expected to enter into force early in 1999. It is crucial to ensure adherence to one or both of these instruments by as many States as possible, and to support the negotiation of a ban on exports in the Conference on Disarmament.

54. The Department for Disarmament Affairs also plays a critical role in post-conflict peace-building, notably in the collection, disposal and destruction of weapons and in the reintegration of former combatants into civil society. Our efforts must always be set in the context of the broader work of the Organization aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts, and at building cultures which reject violence.

55. Finally, wider commitment to greater openness and transparency in military matters would make a valuable contribution to confidence-building and creating security at lower levels of armaments. There are already two instruments for this purpose: the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the system for standardized reporting of military expenditures. I look to Member States to increase and improve their participation in both of these, and I am committed to giving them whatever assistance I can.

Peacekeeping

56. Over the past year, I am pleased to note that the international community has begun to overcome its reluctance to make use of the Organization's peacekeeping capacity. The Security Council has authorized two new operations: the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) and the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL).

57. United Nations peacekeeping clearly offers certain unique advantages not to be found elsewhere, including the universality of its mandate and the breadth of its experience. If the Security Council is known to be ready to authorize new peacekeeping operations whenever, and for as long as, they may be needed, this will not only strengthen the United Nations conflict-prevention efforts but also assist its wider peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building endeavours.

58. Fifty years after the establishment of the first United Nations peacekeeping operation, there are today some 14,500 military and police personnel deployed in missions around the globe under the United Nations flag. Peacekeeping continues to be adapted to changing needs and cooperation with regional organizations is now an important aspect. Although caution and judgement are required before deciding on joint operations, such cooperation can bring together the motivation and knowledge of local actors with the legitimacy, expertise and resources of the world Organization.

59. At Headquarters, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has continued its efforts to strengthen the Organization's capacity to respond swiftly. This past year has seen some progress in the development of the United Nations standby arrangements system, which now includes 74 Member States, with over 100,000 personnel pledged in the framework of the system. I welcome in particular the increased interest in these developments shown by African States. The Department continues to work with Member States on the enhancement of Africa's peacekeeping capacity.

60. Within the context of the standby arrangements system, I was pleased to attend the inauguration of the headquarters of the United Nations Standby Forces High Readiness Brigade in Copenhagen in September 1997. I have also requested, but not yet received, funding for posts necessary to create a rapidly deployable mission headquarters.

61. The total number of peacekeepers in the field has declined since the early 1990s, as a consequence of the winding down of several major United Nations operations, but the actual number of United Nations peacekeeping operations has in fact risen from 15 to 17 in the past year. Six of these are in Europe, four in the Middle East, four in Africa, two in Asia and one in the Americas. Under the auspices of the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations also maintains a human rights and judicial reform mission in Guatemala.

Sanctions

62. I have in the past underlined the need for a mechanism that renders sanctions a less blunt and more effective instrument. Therefore, I welcome the fact that the concept of "smart sanctions", which seek to pressure regimes rather than peoples and thus reduce humanitarian costs, has been gaining support among Member States. The increasing interest in more targeted sanctions was evident in the recent measures applied by the Security Council against the military junta in Sierra Leone and against UNITA in Angola.

63. Resolutions covering mandatory measures should also address humanitarian exemptions and third-State issues. Although sanctions regimes established by the Security Council normally do include humanitarian

exemptions, some human rights treaty-monitoring bodies have stressed the need for such regimes to include specific measures protecting the human rights of vulnerable groups. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has argued that such considerations must be fully taken into account when a sanctions regime is being designed; that effective monitoring must be undertaken throughout the period when sanctions are in force; and that the party or parties responsible for the imposition, maintenance or implementation of sanctions should take steps to prevent any disproportionate suffering being experienced by vulnerable groups within the targeted country. The Committee on the Rights of the Child took a similar approach, pointing out that, in certain conditions, sanctions can act as an obstacle to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

64. The international community should be under no illusion: these humanitarian and human rights policy goals cannot easily be reconciled with those of a sanctions regime. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that sanctions are a tool of enforcement and, like other methods of enforcement, they will do harm. This should be borne in mind when the decision to impose them is taken, and when the results are subsequently evaluated.

Post-conflict peace-building

65. Post-conflict peace-building involves integrated and coordinated actions aimed at addressing the root causes of violence, whether political, legal, institutional, military, humanitarian, human rights-related, environmental, economic and social, cultural or demographic, and laying the foundations for a durable peace. Post-conflict peace-building may be seen as a long-term conflict prevention strategy. Because the causes of conflicts differ, United Nations actions must be tailored to specific situations to strengthen the peace process and make it irreversible. There is no standard post-conflict peace-building model.

66. The largest and arguably most important United Nations peace-building operation is in Guatemala, but the Organization is also involved in peace-building activities in other countries, notably Sierra Leone, where it is monitoring human rights violations and helping the Government to implement its disarmament and demobilization tasks, and Liberia, where the United Nations has established its first peace-building support office.

67. To ensure that the complex challenges of post-conflict peace-building are effectively addressed by the United Nations system and its partners, I designated the Department of Political Affairs, as convener of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, to act as the United Nations focal point for this vital activity. I hope that the First Committee will soon rationalize its work along similar lines.

68. A significant development over the past year has been the increase in civilian police operations, following the withdrawal of military personnel. Such operations have been conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Haiti and could prove very useful in other post-conflict situations, such as that in Angola. This development reflects a growing interest in the role that peacekeeping operations can play in helping to build human rights, law-enforcement and other institutions, and thus to strengthen the foundations of lasting peace.

69. There has been growing recognition of the need to link all aspects of external support for countries afflicted by conflict, whether political, humanitarian, developmental or human rights. The participation of donor Governments, host Governments and non-governmental organizations to meet this need is essential. The Administrative Committee on Coordination has been developing more coherent strategies for peacebuilding through the development of the new strategic framework concept. The framework defines the principles, goals and institutional arrangements needed to create a coherent, effective and integrated political strategy and assistance programme. It provides a common tool for identifying, analysing and prioritizing key issues and activities on the basis of shared principles and objectives. The framework embraces the entire range of core United Nations activities—political, human rights, humanitarian and development—in a given country.

Complementary strategies

70. While the categories of prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding remain useful, it is now widely recognized that most operations combine activities in more than one category. In some operations, for example, in Cyprus and Georgia, the United Nations is actively involved in both peacekeeping and peacemaking. In others, for example, in Sierra Leone and Tajikistan, planning for peacebuilding started during peacekeeping operations. These varied combinations are to be welcomed. They reflect an understanding of the complexities of particular situations and the need to coordinate a diverse range of security-enhancing activities.

71. In the context of conflict prevention, the Department of Political Affairs plays a key role in early warning, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. Both peacekeeping and disarmament can contribute to conflict prevention. For organizational purposes, the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is primarily logistical and operational, while that of the Department for Disarmament Affairs focuses on the diplomatic, legal and technical aspects of weapons and arms limitation. For example, the Department for Disarmament Affairs provides support for negotiations on international instruments to restrict or prohibit landmines; the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is in charge of action to deal with landmines in actual theatres of conflict. Both, however, have to operate within the framework of an overarching political strategy.

72. We now recognize more clearly than ever the crucial linkages between poverty, bad governance and abuse of human rights, on the one hand, and violent conflict on the other. To reduce threats to human security we must not only focus more on their underlying causes than we have in the past; we must also intensify cooperation among the various United Nations agencies and with the Member States.

II. Cooperating for development

73. The challenge of development remains paramount in a world where one fifth of humanity is forced to fend for itself on a meagre dollar a day, one third of all Africans are not expected to survive past the age of 40, nearly 40 per cent of women in developing countries are illiterate, and more than half of South Asia's children remain underweight at age five, while the ongoing Asian economic crisis may thrust some 50 million people in Indonesia alone back into poverty. These stark realities persist despite the fact that the past half-century has witnessed one of the longest periods of economic expansion in history.

74. Yet the volume of external aid to developing countries has declined steadily throughout this decade, and now stands at 0.22 per cent of the GDP of the industrialized countries—only 0.19 per cent for the group of seven major industrialized countries, which includes the richest among them. Moreover, donor countries are increasingly earmarking aid, with no guarantee that their aid-giving preferences match the needs of recipients. Foreign direct investment has not compensated for the decline in aid; in 1997 all of sub-Saharan Africa received a mere \$3 billion, and South Asia \$4 billion. Meanwhile, many developing countries, including some of the poorest, remain subject to the crushing burdens of external debt.

75. The total development assistance made available by the United Nations is a relatively modest \$5.5 billion per year. Despite its limited resources, however, the United Nations has unique advantages as a development institution. Its comprehensive mandate, spanning economic, social and political domains, enables it to devise and enact intersectoral approaches to development cooperation; to link emergency assistance with longer-term development concerns; and to ensure that peace processes and efforts to achieve domestic political reconciliation are supported by and, in turn, complement progress towards development. In addition, the Organization's diverse institutional roles permit it to speak coherently across the entire spectrum of development cooperation, from normative to analytical, policy and operational activities.

76. My programme of reform begun over the course of the past year builds on this institutional capacity, and has already yielded practical results in the development area. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs was established early in 1997 to promote policy coherence in all economic, social and related activities of its member entities. Chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, it includes the relevant Secretariat units, the regional commissions, the United Nations University and the appropriate United Nations research institutes.

77. The Executive Committee has addressed a number of cross-cutting challenges. For example, it has drafted a proposal for utilizing the Development Account for consideration by Member States. It has initiated a long-term project to streamline the development indicators that are produced and used by the United Nations as well as by non-United Nations entities worldwide, and to ensure the consistency of their meaning and interpretation. The Committee also commissioned a review of all flagship reports in the social and economic sectors and has begun to work with the United Nations Development Group on the linkages between normative and operational activities in the field of development. Cooperation is also under way with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations entities to provide substantive content to the concept of the right to development.

78. The United Nations Development Group, comprising the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP) and other relevant operational entities, facilitates joint policy formulation and

decision-making on development cooperation issues. New management tools are enhancing collaboration and the harmonization of procedures.

79. Perhaps the most significant innovation at the country level has been the creation of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. Developed jointly by United Nations country teams under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and in close collaboration with Governments, they permit a new strategic approach to the implementation of goals agreed to at United Nations global conferences and of national development priorities, and make it possible to address in an integrated manner the many dimensions of poverty eradication. A year ago, the United Nations Development Group initiated a pilot phase to test the process in 18 countries; in two pilot countries the interface between the Development Assistance Framework and the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy is being explored with the aim of fostering a strategic partnership between the two institutions. The pilot projects are now being evaluated and the lessons learned will inform future Development Assistance Framework processes.

80. The Development Group has strengthened the Resident Coordinator system, which UNDP funds and manages. New selection procedures have been established that are intended to increase the number of resident coordinators appointed from the wider United Nations system as well as the number of women serving in that capacity.

81. The designation of United Nations Houses at the country level—combining all United Nations programmes, funds and information centres in common premises—will contribute to a greater sense of community and common purpose among United Nations staff while also yielding increased efficiencies and, in many cases, reduction of costs. In 1997, United Nations Houses were officially designated in Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia and South Africa. It is expected that some 30 additional common premises will be designated as United Nations Houses in the near future.

82. Greater cooperation now exists between the Executive Committees on Peace and Security, Economic and Social Affairs and Humanitarian Affairs on issues including sustainable development, post-conflict peace-building, emergency relief operations, linkages between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation and the advancement of human rights.

83. These institutional innovations better serve the needs of Governments that count on the United Nations as a development partner.

Eradication of poverty

84. Guided by the outcomes of its major world conferences of the 1990s, especially the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations has made the eradication of poverty a central cross-cutting goal of its activities. In May 1998, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, comprising the executive heads of all United Nations entities, adopted a statement of commitment for action to eradicate poverty for the system as a whole. Its main purpose is to seek better coordination and greater cooperation between the various elements of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and to agree on a shared strategy addressing all of the key dimensions of action against poverty.

85. During the past year, the United Nations assisted some 100 countries with the preparation, formulation or implementation of national antipoverty programmes. Reviews of existing strategies point to some key areas for improvement; there is, for example, the need to broaden the scope of action against poverty beyond the traditional social-sector and welfare approaches; to address such critical issues as access to productive assets; to encourage a more inclusive dialogue between the State, civil society and the private sector; and to target resource-poor communities and asset-poor households.

86. A substantial share of UNDP resources—some 26 per cent of the total—is now devoted directly to poverty reduction. UNDP assistance includes support for poverty mapping, assessments of national capacity for poverty reduction, setting national goals and targets, public expenditure reviews, reviews of policies, administrative structures and procedures, and resource mobilization.

87. In the belief that the eradication of poverty requires specifically targeting the social sector, the United Nations has given high priority to the implementation of the so-called 20/20 initiative, launched jointly in 1994 by UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). It was proposed under that initiative that Governments and external

donors each allocate 20 per cent of their budgets to basic social services. UNICEF and UNDP are providing increased support to reviews of country-level social sector expenditures.

88. Achieving the eradication of poverty also requires that the feminization of poverty be reversed. Accordingly, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has supported pilot projects designed to strengthen women's economic performance. Efforts to increase women's access to credit, training and technologies so as to enhance their income-generating activities are also being supported. UNIFEM has played a pioneering promotional role in ensuring that the policies and programmes of microcredit institutions take gender issues into account. UNICEF programmes address the challenges of women's empowerment by enhancing the capacity of women's organizations and business associations to negotiate on economic issues, and by providing economic literacy materials to women.

89. Poverty is a major cause of hunger, but hunger also causes and perpetuates intergenerational cycles of poverty. Relieving hunger is the first step in breaking those cycles. In 1997, WFP devoted 93 per cent of its development food assistance to the poorest communities and households in low-income food-deficit countries, more than half of which was deployed in least developed countries. WFP projects seek to enable the hungry poor to reach a level of subsistence at which they can sustain themselves and thus participate effectively in mainstream development programmes.

90. The World Food Programme has also carried out "vulnerability assessment mapping" in 22 African, 8 Asian and 2 Latin American countries. This exercise identifies the geographic distribution of poverty and food insecurity, and helps ascertain their underlying causes together with the appropriate programmatic responses. To ensure that the poor have sustained access to food, WFP targets some 60 per cent of its development resources directly to women and involves them in the management of food distribution and in decision-making.

91. Major steps have been taken to include respect for human rights and dignity as a core element in anti-poverty strategies, and to ensure participation by the poorest in their communities' decision-making processes. At its most recent session, the Commission on Human Rights appointed an independent expert to evaluate the relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and extreme poverty. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights strongly supports mandates that increase understanding within the United Nations system of the intrinsic linkage between development, democracy and human rights.

Social development

92. In the area of social development, a broad array of normative and policy-level activities are under way. Preparations have begun for a review conference in the year 2000 to assess the implementation of the accords reached at the 1995 World Summit. UNDP has finalized a World Poverty Report, which documents progress towards the implementation of the Summit's goals, as well as the remaining obstacles.

93. The General Assembly has designated 1999 the International Year of Older Persons; by this means, the Organization hopes to enhance the participation of older persons in their communities. In August 1998, at the other end of the generational spectrum, the third session of the World Youth Forum was convened by the United Nations in partnership with the Portuguese National Youth Council at Braga, Portugal, and the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth was hosted at Lisbon by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations. The United Nations has also worked to promote the participation of disabled persons in society. Some 70 countries have now adopted legislation or established programmes to advance that end.

94. Health and mortality, and their relations to development, were the special theme of the thirty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development. The Commission called for more reliable and improved data on mortality, for action at national and international levels to determine the causes of the increased mortality noted among adults in some countries, and for increased efforts to lower mortality and improve health. Preparation is also under way for a special session of the General Assembly to follow up on the International Conference on Population and Development, which will be held from 30 June to 2 July 1999.

95. The lack of equality for women and violations of their human rights remain major impediments to development, democracy and peace. Preparations have begun for the high-level review to be conducted by the General Assembly in June 2000 of progress made in the implementation of the decisions of the Nairobi and Beijing World Conferences on Women. Concerted efforts are needed to attain the goal of universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the year 2000 and to strengthen its enforcement mechanisms.

96. At the operational level, UNICEF and its partners help to focus worldwide attention on issues affecting children: the many millions who suffer from malaria and malnutrition; the plight of those who serve in armies or work at hazardous or exploitative jobs; discrimination and violence against girls and young women; the nearly 600,000 adolescent girls and women who die needlessly each year from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth; the terrible toll that HIV/AIDS takes on young people; the many unmet needs of adolescents; and the widening gap between rich and poor.

97. During the past year, UNICEF devoted increased attention to strengthening community involvement in matters concerning children and families. This has been the key to success in raising the number of girls enrolling and staying in school. UNICEF programmes have been expanded to reach not only infants and young children but also adolescents and youth.

98. When reliable information is put in the hands of decision makers, supportive action on behalf of children and women becomes more likely and more effective. Accordingly, UNICEF has developed, in collaboration with several other United Nations agencies, a low-cost, fast and reliable household survey method, the multiple indicator cluster survey, a technique for building national capacity to track progress for children. These surveys have been carried out in 60 countries to date.

99. In 1997, UNFPA devoted approximately 85 per cent of its total resources to basic social services, mostly aimed at the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population. Essential activities included sexual and reproductive health education; improving adolescent reproductive health practices and tailoring them to specific country and subregional situations; providing assistance to reduce maternal mortality; providing emergency assistance in refugee situations; and supporting HIV/AIDS-prevention activities in some 132 countries. UNFPA funding also supported population and development strategies and advocacy work. A set of indicators has been developed to help measure the progress, performance and impact of programmes in the Fund's core programme areas. This represents a significant first step in measuring the effectiveness of its activities.

100. Gender issues remained a cross-cutting concern of all UNFPA-supported programmes. Gender equality is also of concern to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), which is promoting equitable access to housing, land and credit, and more broadly to the decision-making process in human settlements management. Through education and advocacy, UNIFEM contributes to strengthening the leadership skills of women in governmental and nongovernmental arenas, and it trains women's organizations to monitor and promote the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

101. Within the United Nations Secretariat, the Organization is responding vigorously to its mandate to achieve gender equality. Progress has been made in increasing women's representation in the Professional ranks; at the senior levels (D-2), the proportion of women increased from 16 to 22 per cent. A more stringent system has been introduced to ensure that senior managers are held accountable for achieving the 50/50 gender distribution in the Professional categories mandated by the General Assembly.

102. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) seeks to build worldwide commitment and political support for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS through advocacy based on technically sound and up-to-date analyses. UNAIDS issued its latest Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic this past June, just prior to the twelfth World AIDS Conference. UNAIDS also supports improved access to, and use of, the best and most effective practices at the national and community levels. The Programme has made great strides in joint planning and programme coordination with other agencies and in forming partnerships with host countries as well as civil society actors. At the same time, paradoxically, explosive HIV growth continues in most regions of the world, and the prevention gap is widening between rich and poor countries. As a result, life expectancy rates at birth are declining in some developing countries to levels not seen since before the onset of industrialization, and gains in child survival rates are evaporating.

103. Fully two thirds of the people infected by HIV/AIDS worldwide are in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to the tragic costs in human terms, the burden on already overstretched health and social facilities has been immense. The disproportionate impact on the young and on people still in their most productive years of employment adds to the direct economic costs and further diminishes the pool of talent available to societies.

104. In 1997, it was estimated that some 12 million people worldwide had already died of HIV-related causes; 30 million were living with HIV/AIDS; and 5.8 million were newly infected—some 16,000 new infections every day. These statistics were rendered all the more alarming by the fact that in many industrialized

countries the perception prevailed that the "AIDS crisis" was over. Combination antiretrovirals have come into widespread use in the developed world over the past two years, but because they are so costly and difficult to administer they remain inaccessible to most people living with HIV in the developing world and in countries with economies in transition.

105. The examples of Thailand and Uganda show that HIV rates can be reduced significantly by strong prevention programmes. Uganda has cut its HIV infection rate by more than a quarter, and Thailand by almost 15 per cent—reductions that compare favourably with those in industrialized countries. Stopping new infections is ultimately the best way of averting the devastating impact of HIV and success hinges on using a careful mix of tried-and-tested prevention methods. Some of these methods are extremely costly in terms of political capital, but they are essential if anti-poverty gains are not to be overwhelmed by this savage virus.

Sustainable development

106. The mutually supportive link between environmental protection and regeneration, on the one hand, and development and poverty eradication, on the other, has been stressed at least since the adoption of Agenda 21 at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It was reaffirmed by the General Assembly in June 1997 at its special session devoted to appraising progress achieved since 1992. The Administrative Committee on Coordination is taking steps to translate agreed policy measures into activities of the United Nations system, especially at the country level.

107. Following up on the 1997 Kyoto Conference (third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), UNDP and the Global Environment Facility are supporting some 100 developing countries in the preparation of national situation reports. This \$2.2 million project has already attracted \$1.2 million in donor financing. It seeks to encourage the formulation of enabling legislation to respond to this major global challenge. It will also promote exchanges of information and knowledge among developing countries through South-South linkages. The initiative is the most recent in the UNDP \$30-million-plus portfolio of climate change enabling activity projects. UNDP has published *Energy after Rio: Prospects and Challenges*, a report on the relationship between energy and development, which presents an analysis of the sustainable energy strategies that will be needed to meet Agenda 21 objectives.

108. Because half the world's population now lives in cities and towns—and an estimated two thirds will be urban in 2025—the sustainable development of our planet will more than ever depend on our understanding of urban problems and on the ability to craft and implement effective responses to them. The Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996, provides the strategic guidance for this effort. As recognized in the Agenda, success in meeting global environmental challenges depends on the effective management of urban problems.

109. The Sustainable Cities Programme, a joint effort of Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), supports urban management at city and national levels through capacity-building and networking. The Programme is active in more than 20 cities and has produced a series of policy guidelines that are used in many countries. Habitat also provides the secretariat of the Urban Environment Forum, a global network of cities and international programmes committed to improving the urban environment.

Fostering investment and growth

110. A key challenge for the international community is to help the poorest developing countries, especially the least developed, to build the capacities that enable them to become more effectively and beneficially integrated into the global economy. Debt relief, additional aid, better trade opportunities and more favourable terms of trade are required to facilitate this process.

111. The development of Africa remains a matter of the highest priority. I addressed the challenges of promoting durable peace and sustainable development in Africa in a major report to the Security Council in April. I urged the leaders of African countries that have been afflicted by cycles of conflict and lack of development to create a positive environment for investment by, among other measures, adopting the practices of good governance and instituting economic reforms. I urged the international community to do its part by converting into grants all remaining bilateral official debts for the poorest countries and to ease the conditions of access to multilateral facilities for the heavily indebted poor countries.

112. The growing marginalization of some countries in the world economy has been a major concern for the United Nations. Such countries typically exhibit high dependence on commodities. The declining importance of

primary commodities in world trade appears to foreshadow a continuation of the long-term erosion in the prices of primary commodities relative to those of manufactured goods. Without success in diversifying their economies, therefore, these countries are likely to find their relative position continuing to worsen. The policy analyses conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on such issues as commodity diversification, risk management and electronic commerce suggest new ways for small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries to diversify their participation in international markets.

113. UNIFEM has been promoting women's participation in the trade and investment sectors. Studies on the impact of trade liberalization on women workers were undertaken this year in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition, support was provided to women cash crop producers to assist them in forming cooperatives to increase their incomes and their bargaining position in the international economy.

Supporting good governance

114. Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development. By good governance is meant creating well-functioning and accountable institutions—political, judicial and administrative—that citizens regard as legitimate, through which they participate in decisions that affect their lives, and by which they are empowered. Good governance also entails a respect for human rights and the rule of law generally. Support for good governance has become an increasingly important element in the development-related work of the United Nations.

115. The support of UNDP for good governance focuses on strengthening parliaments, electoral bodies and judiciaries. UNICEF provides support for the revision of national laws in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, training parliamentarians and law enforcement officials, and generally integrating children's rights into the political and legal fabric of States.

116. Good governance is integral to the work of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. A world free of drugs and drug lords cannot be created without strengthening national judicial and law enforcement systems. At the field level, the Office assists efforts to reduce demand for and production of illicit drugs, and provides technical assistance to law enforcement agencies in the fight against drug-trafficking. For example, the Caribbean Coordination Mechanism convened by the Office in Bridgetown, Barbados, explored ways to strengthen drug control cooperation in the Caribbean region, including maritime cooperation, harmonizing legislation and creating effective measures to counter money-laundering.

117. Supporting good governance, especially through strengthening national judicial systems and policy frameworks, is also essential to the promotion of reproductive health and gender equality. This past year, UNFPA provided assistance to Governments and sponsored workshops and advocacy efforts to further these aims.

118. The contribution of WFP to good governance focuses on capacity-building at the community level, aimed at enhancing the access of poor and crisis-affected households to food. The main means to this end is advocacy that the right to food be treated as a fundamental human right, the achievement of which is closely linked to women's empowerment.

119. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has given priority to collecting and disseminating basic data on governance and public administration, so as to assist policy formulation and the development of long-term strategies in Member States. The Department has also fostered the exchange of information on practices and policies in the area of public sector reform.

120. Credible elections are a core ingredient of good governance and the process of democratization. Over the course of the past year, the United Nations continued to provide electoral assistance and to assist in strengthening national institutions for better management of the electoral process. Since August 1997, the United Nations has received long- and short-term electoral assistance requests from Armenia, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Togo. The United Nations also helped to coordinate and support international observation of the National Assembly elections held in Cambodia on 26 July 1998.

121. Meeting our commitment to enhancing economic and social development, particularly in countries in the greatest need, is an increasingly challenging task. Our agenda is expanding, yet our resources are declining. Effective cooperation among the various elements within the broad United Nations family of organizations is an imperative that we will pursue with determination. Achieving our goals will also require the strong support of Member States.

III. Meeting humanitarian commitments

122. During the past year, tangible results have been recorded in the humanitarian field despite serious funding constraints. Not only has the United Nations continued to provide humanitarian relief as well and as quickly as it could; it has also been the principal catalyst in finding more sophisticated ways of dealing with the plight of civilians in complex emergencies and in mobilizing the resources of the world community for this purpose as expeditiously as possible.

123. Unfortunately, there has been more evidence this past year of a further erosion in the respect for humanitarian principles in several countries. The right of civilians in need, particularly children and women, to receive humanitarian assistance is enshrined in international humanitarian law. Yet humanitarian organizations have been denied access to people in need and deliberate attacks on civilian populations have continued. Warring parties have terrorized populations into leaving specific areas. Hatred and suspicion between members of different ethnic or religious groups have been incited by media under the control of faction leaders. Increasingly, violence has been perpetrated against aid workers whose help to innocent victims of conflict is seen as threatening the political objectives of armed groups. The toll has been heavy: this year, for the first time, more United Nations civilian personnel have been killed than military personnel. I have asked for a report on what can be done to improve the security of our colleagues in the field, while still enabling them to carry on their vital missions.

124. The year has also been notable for life-threatening ecological disasters. The El Niño phenomenon, the forest fires in Brazil and Indonesia, a new drought in the Sudan, the tsunami in Papua New Guinea and other disasters have devastated thousands of lives. They have reminded the international community of the vulnerability of many parts of the world to both natural and human-created environmental disasters. The humanitarian consequences of such catastrophes are often so great that national Governments, acting on their own, cannot hope to cope with them.

125. In July 1998, the Economic and Social Council for the first time included a special humanitarian segment in its regular session, in which it reaffirmed the importance of respect for international humanitarian law and principles, endorsed the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and set out specific goals for future priority areas.

Coordinating humanitarian action

126. The new Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, headed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, focuses on three core functions: policy development and coordination; humanitarian advocacy; and coordination of humanitarian action. Operational functions have been transferred from the former Department of Humanitarian Affairs to other parts of the United Nations system. The newly established Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, brings together relevant departments of the Secretariat (the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Departments of Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) and representatives of the United Nations humanitarian agencies on a monthly basis to address the humanitarian policy concerns of the United Nations.

127. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee, composed of all the key humanitarian agencies, has further strengthened its role as the primary mechanism for the coordination of humanitarian assistance activities. The Committee has established policy guidelines on issues such as the link between human rights and humanitarian action and the humanitarian consequences of economic sanctions. It also played an active role coordinating the initiatives of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in support of internally displaced persons, including the establishment of a global database.

128. Policy development is one of the three core functions of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Humanitarian action can have important political, socio-economic and environmental repercussions. The Office has contributed to ongoing efforts to ensure a more coherent and integrated response to complex crises, for example through the "strategic framework" approach in Afghanistan. It has also elaborated clearly defined principles, based on the Charter, human rights and international humanitarian law, which would be applicable to all United Nations activities in crisis countries.

129. There are many opportunities for cooperation between humanitarian assistance and human rights programmes. For example, the wealth of information at the disposal of both humanitarian and human rights organizations can help to enhance the early-warning capacity of the United Nations, thus ensuring better

identification of needs for humanitarian and other assistance and allowing human rights programmes to be more responsive to country developments.

130. There is a widespread desire in the international community to counteract the harm economic sanctions impose on vulnerable segments of the civilian population in targeted countries. In a statement transmitted to the Security Council in February, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee expressed concern about the adverse humanitarian consequences of sanctions on civilian populations and urged that measures be taken to minimize them. The recent embargoes on Sierra Leone, and particularly the regional embargo imposed on Burundi by its neighbours, have curtailed the supply of foodstuffs and other matériel needed to alleviate the humanitarian consequences of those sanctions. Field evaluations of the potential and actual humanitarian impact of sanctions on Sierra Leone and the Sudan were undertaken in response to requests from the Security Council. In a study on more humane and effective sanctions management commissioned by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, specific steps were recommended to address the humanitarian impact of sanctions and to facilitate the processing of humanitarian exemptions. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has now set up a group of experts to develop the methodology further, and to increase the capacity of the United Nations to conduct impact assessment missions at short notice.

131. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has continued to strengthen and integrate the collection, analysis and dissemination of information. The Humanitarian Early Warning System collects and analyses information from varied sources to identify potential crises, and it prepares briefs and reports on these. The Integrated Regional Information Network, based in the field, provides information and analyses from a regional perspective to a variety of audiences in the international humanitarian community. The Reliefweb Web site (www.reliefweb.int) consolidates and disseminates humanitarian information from over 170 sources, including United Nations agencies, international organizations, Governments, nongovernmental organizations and other public sources. By the end of 1997, an average of 200,000 documents were being retrieved each month from Reliefweb by users in more than 140 countries.

132. While progress was made in improving the United Nations inter-agency consolidated appeals process, of the total \$2.05 billion sought as at mid-July 1998, only \$472 million was pledged, received, or carried over from 1997. Between September 1997 and August 1998, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs organized consolidated appeals for 10 complex emergency situations (Afghanistan, Angola, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, former Yugoslavia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Tajikistan), as well as an appeal for the Great Lakes region and Central Africa covering Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

133. The number and scale of environmental emergencies have grown at an alarming speed. In South-East Asia, six countries were seriously affected by dense haze stemming primarily from large-scale forest fires in Indonesia. Fires also destroyed several thousands of square kilometres of forest in the Roraima State in Brazil, in March 1998. They were deliberately started for the purpose of land clearance, their spread being aggravated by El Niño-induced drought conditions.

134. In coordinating responses to 54 natural disasters and environmental emergencies from September 1997 to August 1998, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued 151 situation reports and launched 26 appeals for international assistance, towards which contributions worth over \$129 million in cash, kind and services were provided by the international community. Ten missions were dispatched to disaster sites to assist with needs assessment and relief coordination.

135. New international and national arrangements must be put in place to ensure effective and ongoing coordinated support for disaster-reduction efforts in the next century. An action plan for 1998-1999 has been initiated by the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction secretariat under the auspices of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to evaluate progress in disaster-reduction policies over the past 10 years, identify trends for the twenty-first century and shape future directions for international cooperation in disaster prevention.

Delivering humanitarian services

136. UNICEF has traditionally been dedicated to the provision of health, nutrition and education services to children and women in conflict. In 1998, efforts were stepped up to apply humanitarian principles to the impartial delivery of assistance to all children in need and to protect their basic rights. UNICEF worked with its partners to apply these principles in countries where access to humanitarian assistance is problematic, among

them Afghanistan, eastern Congo, southern Sudan and Sierra Leone. UNICEF is also developing a training package in collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations regarding the responsibilities of peacekeepers towards civilian communities in general and the rights of children and women in particular.

137. Many of the World Food Programme's operations also come under the rubric of humanitarian assistance. The Programme's emergency work in 1997 focused on operations in conflict situations and reached a total of 19.1 million refugees or returnees and internally displaced persons, most of them women and children. WFP delivered food aid assistance both in life-threatening situations and for rehabilitation activities. Food aid assistance was provided to an additional 10 million people suffering the consequences of drought and floods in 1997. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a recipient of food aid during the year, has structural agricultural problems compounded by both floods and drought.

138. Natural disaster operations of a more traditional character were organized in 1997 in more than a dozen countries. Standby arrangements made in previous years with several nongovernmental organizations and Governments were put to the test in 1997 in responding to the increased demand created by an abnormal number of natural disasters. Major contingency planning exercises were undertaken in 1997 for the Sahel region and southern Africa to prepare for possible droughts caused by El Niño.

139. Another source of serious concern during the year was the danger to the personal safety of WFP staff members, many of whom served in war-affected situations. Seven staff members lost their lives in the course of duty in 1997; seven more have died in 1998.

140. In addition to its mainstream development activities and resources, UNDP engages in special development activities designed to bridge humanitarian assistance with rehabilitation and recovery. These activities are funded by 5 per cent of UNDP core resources set aside for countries in special development situations. Since September 1997, UNDP has also participated in inter-agency efforts for United Nations mine action reform and policy development and has taken on the responsibility for addressing the socio-economic consequences of mines and unexploded ordnance.

141. In October 1997, I established the Office of the Iraq Programme to consolidate all Secretariat activities relating to the "oil-for-food" programme established pursuant to Security Council resolution 986(1995). This is a temporary measure to provide for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people until fulfilment by Iraq of the relevant resolutions imposing sanctions. The Security Council authorized Iraq to export oil and utilize two thirds of the proceeds for the purchase of humanitarian supplies. The programme has made possible the purchase of foodstuffs, medical supplies and essential inputs for agriculture, water and sanitation, electricity and, recently, spare parts for the oil industry. In February 1998, I recommended a significant expansion of the programme and the Security Council subsequently authorized Iraq to increase oil sales up to \$5.256 billion over six months, compared to \$2 billion in each of the previous three phases. Because of a substantial drop in oil prices and limited export capacity, it is unlikely that sales will generate more than \$3 billion during the current phase. There is therefore a need to ensure that food, medicine and spare parts essential to maintaining oil production receive the necessary resources.

Assisting refugees

142. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that the total number of refugees, displaced and other war-affected persons fell by some 300,000 during 1997, to reach 22.3 million at the end of the year. This figure included 12 million refugees, 950,000 asylum-seekers, 3.5 million repatriated refugees in the early stages of their reintegration, and 5.9 million internally displaced persons and others, mostly from war-affected communities. A total of some 900,000 refugees were repatriated during 1997 either through UNHCR programmes or by their own means. Often, however, refugees returned to fragile or unstable situations emerging from conflict or still embroiled in it. In the former Yugoslavia, UNHCR remains preoccupied with the continued displacement of some 1.8 million persons, both within and outside the region. The conflict in Kosovo and the persistent tension in the Danube region of Croatia have necessitated a renewed UNHCR presence in the region to provide assistance to people fleeing those areas.

143. In western Africa, insecurity in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone prompted outflows of refugees to neighbouring countries; Guinea now hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. Post-conflict peace-building activities are being conducted in the region as Liberia begins the process of rehabilitation; between July 1997 and July 1998 UNHCR assisted almost 53,000 refugees to return to that country. In an effort to address the causes of refugee movements in the Great Lakes region and advance solutions, UNHCR and the Organization of

African Unity convened a conference at Kampala in May, which focused on how refugees might be protected while taking into consideration the security concerns of particular Member States. The conference also addressed the complex and difficult relationship between humanitarian assistance and longer-term reconstruction and development.

144. In addressing the reintegration and rehabilitation needs of refugees and returnees, UNHCR faces an enormous task. Yet there is growing concern that its vital operations will have to be scaled down and, in some instances, suspended, because of lack of funding. This is especially so in the case of its operations in Angola, Rwanda and Liberia.

145. Combining both humanitarian and development work, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continues to provide relief and social services to 3.5 million Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. With a deficit of \$62 million in the 1998 budget of \$314 million, which follows chronic budget shortfalls since 1993, the Agency's level and standard of service has however continued to decline.

146. The United Nations and its various relief agencies lead the international humanitarian efforts, often in the face of nearly insurmountable political and physical difficulties, as well as severe resource constraints. The key to alleviating the miseries stemming from man-made and natural disasters lies in linking those humanitarian efforts to the efforts being made in the political, economic and development spheres. Effective coordination between United Nations bodies and those outside the United Nations system is at the heart of this effort.

IV. Engaging with globalization

147. Defined in purely geographic terms, little is new about globalization. Interconnected human activity on a worldwide scale has existed for centuries. The form of contemporary globalization is new, however. The production of a single automobile model, for example, or global trading in a financial instrument, may be physically dispersed across many countries. Yet those dispersed activities function as if they were all in one place, they are connected in real time and they follow their own holistic logic—whether it is determined by a single corporate structure or by thousands of individual buy and sell orders on computer screens and telephones. Moreover, demographic momentum, together with patterns of land use and energy consumption, has always affected local and subregional ecosystems. Today these and other human factors increasingly affect the planet's ecology as a whole, be it through ozone depletion, global warming or diminishing biodiversity. Lastly, the technological advances and open borders that enable commercial firms to organize the production of goods and services transnationally also enable terrorist networks, criminal syndicates, drug traffickers and money launderers to project their reach across the globe.

148. These new dimensions of globalization can only be addressed multilaterally, by the United Nations and by other international institutions.

The economic dimension

149. In cooperation with other multilateral organizations, the United Nations has sought to strengthen normative, legal and institutional frameworks that will allow the global economy to operate more effectively and equitably. These frameworks are essential to ensuring stability and predictability and allowing all regions of the world, in particular the least developed countries, to benefit from the expansion of the global economy. The international economic policy agenda today is beset with complex problems that were unimaginable when the rules for managing the post-war economic order were written in the late 1940s.

150. During the past year the Asian financial crisis has intensified and now affects countries on every continent. It has exacted steep and possibly long-lasting social costs in East Asia, and raised serious concerns about the operations of unregulated financial markets. Those hardest hit by the crisis are the most vulnerable; and there is a real risk that many of the successes built up over the years in reducing poverty in the region will be reversed.

151. As far back as 1993, the United Nations World Economic Survey expressed concern that a number of developing countries had become hosts to large stocks of volatile funds. The Trade and Development Report, 1997 sounded a clear warning about the emerging situation in East Asia. Well before the onset of the crisis, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) commissioned country studies to identify the strengths, weaknesses and remedial actions required to improve financial sector management. Possible responses to the crisis have been discussed at meetings organized by ESCAP in cooperation with the Asian

Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in cooperation with the regional commissions.

152. At a special high-level meeting on 18 April 1998 the Economic and Social Council addressed means of preventing or, if preventive strategies failed, of containing the impact of such crises, and of achieving "international economic security" more broadly. Questions addressed at the meeting included the overall health and viability of the international financial sector, the relationship between borrowers and lenders, and how to achieve the key objectives of poverty eradication and development. The positive atmosphere of the debate reflected the interest of the participants in moving towards a more comprehensive approach to crisis avoidance than currently exists, and in strengthening the cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

153. Looking beyond the immediate crisis, the Economic and Social Council devoted its 1998 high-level segment to market access in the context of globalization, and debated how developments since the Uruguay Round are affecting developing and least developed countries. In a ministerial communiqué—a first for the Council—it stressed the need for further efforts for trade liberalization through the World Trade Organization, coupled with the need to provide enhanced technical assistance to developing countries. In September 1998, the General Assembly will, for the first time, hold a high-level dialogue on the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications.

The environmental dimension

154. International cooperation has a vital role to play in arresting and reversing the potentially harmful effects of human activities on the environment. The Commission on Sustainable Development and the newly strengthened United Nations Environment Programme are central to this effort.

155. The role of industry in creating sustainable development strategies has been of particular interest to the Commission this year. For the first time in a United Nations intergovernmental setting, the Commission convened a policy dialogue among Governments, the private sector, unions and civil society organizations on an equal footing. This led to an agreement to undertake a multi-stakeholder review of voluntary initiatives aimed at promoting environmentally and socially responsible business practices and investments. Such meetings will become a regular feature of the sessions of the Commission.

156. In June 1997, at its "Rio + 5" special session, the General Assembly had considered a study warning that, without preventive measures, two thirds of the world's population could face freshwater scarcity and water quality problems by the year 2025; in 1998, a series of international meetings sought to identify appropriate policy responses. On another front, the Commission's Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, at its first session in September 1997, adopted a three-year work programme, including consideration of a possible binding instrument for the sustainable development of forests and their resources.

157. A protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was negotiated this past year. It specifies legally binding targets for greenhouse gas reduction by industrialized countries, and is a step towards managing major environmental problems attending globalization.

158. The United Nations also made significant headway in creating two new international legal instruments designed to ensure the safe management of hazardous chemicals that move across borders. The first involves persistent organic pollutants that bioaccumulate, possibly causing cancer, reproductive disorders, damage to central and peripheral nervous systems and diseases of the immune system, and interfering with infant and child development. UNEP initiated negotiations to prepare an international legally binding instrument to reduce the risks arising from the release of 12 such pollutants. The first session of the negotiating committee was held in June-July 1998.

159. The second instrument concerns trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides. After two years of negotiations, the draft text of a legally binding instrument prescribing prior informed consent of such trading was concluded in March 1998. This will provide a means to acquire and disseminate information on this risk-prone form of trade and promote shared responsibility between exporting and importing countries. A diplomatic conference is to be held at Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in September 1998 to adopt the convention.

160. In collaboration with more than 200 scientists and an international team of reviewers, the World Meteorological Organization and UNEP jointly prepared an updated scientific assessment of ozone depletion. That assessment notes that, with full implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the

Ozone Layer, the complete recovery of the Earth's protective ozone layer could occur by the middle of the next century. It also indicates that the combined total of all ozone-depleting compounds in the troposphere peaked in 1994, and is now slowly declining. Like its predecessor survey in 1994, this assessment provides the scientific consensus needed to guide international cooperation for the purpose of phasing out the use of substances that deplete the ozone layer.

161. In the area of biodiversity, the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety held three sessions during the past year to continue preparing the groundwork for negotiations on a biosafety protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Global Environment Facility has agreed to fund a major pilot project to be implemented by UNEP that will provide assistance on biosafety to developing and transitional countries.

162. Regional multilateral organizations continue to play an important environmental role. For example, the negotiating committee on persistent organic pollutants agreed to use protocols established by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) as a basis for worldwide action. Similarly, within the framework of ECE, an international agreement has just been adopted to develop global technical standards for motor vehicles, which should lead to the production of vehicles meeting high safety and environmental standards.

"Uncivil" society

163. The globalization of electronic communication is helping to create an embryonic global civil society, represented most obviously by the ever-increasing number of non-governmental organizations focusing on issues related to the environment, development, human rights and peace. The forces that made possible the emergence of a global civil society also, unfortunately, facilitate the transnationalization of "uncivil" elements.

164. In many countries, criminal organizations and drug-trafficking syndicates with transnational links represent a major threat to both Governments and peoples. In June 1998, the General Assembly held a special session to examine the global drug problem and related threats. It reached consensus that the most appropriate policy was a balanced approach to drug control, giving equal priority to reducing demand and reducing supply, and providing alternative crop opportunities to farmers growing drug-producing crops.

165. The operational follow-up to the special session will involve the key international financial institutions. It will also equip the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to assist countries in combating organized crime more effectively and in reducing the supply of illicit drugs. The Programme monitors and analyses changing drug traffic patterns, liaises with enforcement experts from other agencies and helps Governments to reinforce their border control and drug detection capacities. It has also developed a worldwide programme of training and technical assistance to increase awareness of money-laundering, encourage the adoption and enforcement of effective national laws and upgrade the skills of the police, prosecutors, judges and financial regulators and their ability to respond to the rapidly changing modalities of financial crime.

166. The Programme also maintains an Anti-Money-Laundering International Database; a world compendium of anti-money-laundering legislation and procedures, which is part of the International Money-Laundering Information Network; as well as a library and forum for information exchange among international organizations and other interested parties. UNDCP has also established a global system for sharing data with other international organizations involved in the fight against international crime. For example, its database is linked with Interpol and the World Customs Organization. At the regional level, the Programme brings together law enforcement authorities from neighbouring countries to discuss region-specific problems and ways to address them. In drug-producing countries, it works with Governments and rural communities to facilitate a transition to legal alternative crops and promotes sustainable agro-industrial sectors.

167. The General Assembly took important action this past year to strike at the threat of terrorism. In December 1997, it adopted the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. The Sixth Committee will next take up consideration of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

168. In this increasingly interconnected world, the forces for good and evil travel with equal speed and ease. Globalization has an immense potential to improve people's lives, but it can disrupt—and destroy—them as well. Those who do not accept its pervasive, all-encompassing ways are often left behind. It is our task to prevent this; to ensure that globalization leads to progress, prosperity and security for all. I intend that the United Nations shall lead this effort.

V. Strengthening the international legal order

169. The idea that the international order should be based on legal norms and rules is fragile and fragmentary, but it is steadily gaining ground. A growing body of trade law, and other rule-based frameworks, allows global markets to expand. Multilateral treaties address problems related to the global commons as well as to arms limitation and disarmament. The United Nations plays a unique role in the definition and protection of human rights. Indeed, in 1998, the year which witnesses the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we are more than ever conscious of our responsibilities in this field.

170. It is fitting, therefore, that 1998 also saw the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Rome Conference succeeded in creating what had long been described as the missing link in the international legal system: a permanent court to judge the crimes of gravest concern to the international community as a whole—genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

The human rights regime

171. While gross violations of human rights remain an issue of concern, the notion that the interests of the many can be advanced by violating the rights of a few is an illusion which, happily, is far less widespread at the close of this century than it was in earlier periods. If individual rights are not protected, the whole of society suffers. Personal freedoms are however rendered largely meaningless by civil wars, or by economic, social or cultural deprivation—often, indeed, by a combination of all these.

172. It is for these reasons that I have repeatedly stressed that the promotion of human rights must not be treated as something separate from the Organization's other activities. Rather, it is the common thread running through all of them, particularly through every stage of our work in peace and security, from conflict prevention to post-conflict peace-building and beyond. Human rights bodies are involved in early-warning and preventive activities, and human rights considerations are increasingly embodied in our response to crises. We aim to provide human rights training for all participants in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, and to put complementary human rights field operations on a firmer financial basis. Building, or rebuilding, a national infrastructure for the protection of human rights is central to the whole concept of post-conflict peace-building. Finally, we aim to continue providing support for human rights institutions even after a country moves beyond the peace-building stage. The crucial connection between human rights and international peace and security is becoming more widely understood. Large-scale human rights violations are not merely the product of civil and ethnic conflict, they are also a major cause of such conflicts.

173. The year has also seen the United Nations begin to implement the rights-based approach to development, which is intended to help States and international agencies redirect their development thinking. The United Nations Development Programme has designated the right to development as a fundamental objective, and promotion of respect for human rights as central to development assistance. UNICEF has similarly employed the Convention on the Rights of the Child to guide its work.

174. The rights-based approach to development describes situations not simply in terms of human needs, or of developmental requirements, but in terms of society's obligation to respond to the inalienable rights of individuals. It empowers people to demand justice as a right, not as charity, and gives communities a moral basis from which to claim international assistance where needed.

175. On 26 June 1998 the international community observed the first United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture channels humanitarian assistance to an increasing number of organizations that help victims of torture every year. Thanks to a substantial increase in the contributions received from Governments, the Fund will disburse more than \$4 million in 1998-1999 for medical, psychological, social, financial and legal assistance to about 100 organizations that assist some 60,000 victims of torture worldwide. To further this vital work, I call upon those Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The international tribunals

176. The two ad hoc international tribunals, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague and the International Tribunal for Rwanda, have demonstrated that the institutions of international justice can have teeth.

177. Indeed, these judicial proceedings are of immense historical significance. The Tribunal for Rwanda is the first international tribunal to deal specifically with the crime of genocide. Its judgement in the trial of Jean-Paul Akayesu and the sentencing of a former Prime Minister of Rwanda, Jean Kambanda, who had pleaded guilty, mark the first time ever that such decisions have been rendered for the crime of genocide by any international court. Without this Tribunal and the international cooperation it has been able to command, these and other individuals still awaiting trial—who all fled Rwanda—would almost certainly have escaped justice.

178. As at August 1998, public indictments had been issued by the two Tribunals against almost 100 people—60 by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and 36 by the International Tribunal for Rwanda. In the case of the former Yugoslavia, 28 of the accused were in custody, five trials were under way and two defendants had been sentenced. In the case of Rwanda, 31 were in custody, including many of the alleged ringleaders of the Rwandan genocide, in addition to former Prime Minister Kambanda, five former ministers and other senior political and military figures.

179. To cope with the substantial increase in the workload of the Tribunals, and to prevent undue delay in the trial process, the capacity of both has been expanded, and elections will soon add new judges.

The International Criminal Court

180. On 17 July, after more than 50 years of hope interspersed with despair, and following five weeks of deliberations among representatives from 159 States, the Rome Statute was adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. Its aim is to put an end to the global culture of impunity—the culture in which it has been easier to bring someone to justice for killing one person than for killing 100,000. More than 200 non-governmental organizations took part in the process—an unprecedented level of participation by civil society in a law-making conference.

181. Although many would have preferred the Court to have been vested with more far-reaching powers, one should not minimize the breakthrough that was achieved. The Statute provides that States parties to the Statute accept the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

182. We have before us an opportunity to take a monumental step in the name of human rights and the rule of law. The main challenge now is to encourage States to ratify and implement the Statute. The Statute will stay open for signature until 31 December 2000. It is my fervent hope that by then a large majority of Member States will have signed and ratified it, so that the Court will have unquestioned authority and the widest possible jurisdiction.

183. The United Nations is an association of sovereign States, but the rights that it exists to protect and promote are people's rights. It follows that individuals everywhere have a responsibility to help defend the ideals of human rights. The role of civil society in the establishment of the International Criminal Court was an inspiring example of what can be achieved by people driven by faith in those ideals. The voice of the people brought us to Rome; the voice of the people gives this gift of hope to succeeding generations.

VI. Managing change

184. The United Nations is a large, heterogeneous and highly complex organization. Managing its many activities and communicating its message are vital tasks. It is also in these areas that many of the most difficult reform efforts are being pursued. Success is absolutely essential if we are to meet our mission goals in the new millennium.

Creating a culture of communication

185. Placing communications at the heart of the strategic management of the Organization is central to the ongoing revitalization of the United Nations. If the goals of this revitalization are to be clearly understood, a culture of communication must pervade the entire Organization. Such a culture, supported by corresponding institutional arrangements, will enable the Organization to communicate with its global audience with greater coherence and forcefulness.

186. The Department of Public Information is leading the implementation of the new communications strategy proposed by a high-level task force that I appointed last year. The strategy focuses on enhancing the links between the United Nations, the media and broad sectors of civil society. Implementing this strategy will require us to seek out new ways to tell the United Nations story and highlight its successes. Towards that end, the

Department and other Secretariat units are working together to identify and implement information campaigns, focused on news-making aspects of the Organization's activities. A strategic communications planning group has been created within the Department to assist the Under-Secretary-General in setting goals and strategies, and reaching out to the media, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, the business community and youth.

187. The Internet has become a vital tool in strengthening United Nations partnerships around the world, given the primacy of speed in all media-related activity, and given also the access the Internet provides to vast new audiences. In future, the United Nations Web site will carry more audio and video material, including regular radio news updates; it will host on-line discussions with United Nations experts and promote the sales and marketing of United Nations publications and materials.

188. The United Nations Web site (www.un.org), winner of a number of specialist awards for its contents and ease of use, is being expanded to include all six official languages. During 1997, users accessed the Web site more than 40 million times; this number will more than double in 1998. A Web site created for the recent United Nations Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, held in Rome, provided instant news and visual material to the media and others closely following the issue. In its first two weeks, that Web site was accessed more than 380,000 times.

189. As part of the effort to deploy advanced communications and electronic publishing technology in all aspects of the Organization's work, United Nations Information Centres and services are now electronically linked both to Headquarters and to each other, providing instant, low-cost access to United Nations news, documents and reference resources. Several Centres have established their own Web sites for local audiences. On another front, the Centres are being integrated with UNDP field offices.

190. The print and audio-visual products of the Department of Public Information are increasingly tailored to meet the changing needs of media disseminators in terms of content, style and timeliness. This, too, has been helped by the introduction of radio and television programming on the United Nations Web site, as well as the rapid posting of digital photographs and print outputs of the Organization's activities worldwide. We are studying the possible creation of an international radio broadcasting service, which would put cost-effective information delivery at the disposal of the entire United Nations system, particularly in support of peacekeeping and humanitarian emergency operations.

191. Notwithstanding the vast opportunities offered by the Internet, the print medium is still the most influential in disseminating ideas and opinions. Department of Public Information publications are constantly reviewed and improved through readership surveys. Innovations include a more reader-friendly edition of Basic Facts about the United Nations and the transformation of the UN Chronicle into a lively forum of opinion and debate as well as of essential news. Development Business has launched Development Business Online in collaboration with the World Bank. Sales of United Nations publications continue to increase and are the leading revenue-producing activity of the Organization.

192. Outreach to young people is vital to the ongoing relevance of the United Nations. The Department of Public Information has placed special emphasis on education and youth, organizing guided tours, publications and workshops for teachers and students, plus special events such as Students Day at the United Nations and a youth-oriented programme on Human Rights Day. The CyberSchoolBus, the Department's on-line education project, reaches thousands of students in more than 60 countries, and is the most popular site on the United Nations Web site.

193. In the drive to build greater global public support for the Organization, the Department is working closely with non-governmental organizations. The Department is also expanding its contacts with research and academic institutions, the private sector, youth groups and global communication leaders. In September 1997, the annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, celebrating 50 years of partnership between the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations, drew more than 1,800 participants from 61 countries to United Nations Headquarters. The second United Nations World Television Forum, held in November 1997, included a number of renowned television figures and provided a venue for a fruitful professional dialogue.

Administration and management

194. The Department of Management continues to focus on creating a mission-driven and results-oriented organization, which calls for better management of human resources and the Organization's programme.

195. The Department carried out a wide variety of initiatives last year. Programme managers conducted management reviews designed to enhance the delivery of mandated programmes, strengthen services to Member States and identify ways to implement their programmes within budgetary constraints.

196. In the future, greater emphasis will be given to what the Organization intends to accomplish in terms of results, as opposed to focusing on inputs and instrumental measures. With results-based budgeting it is envisaged that the weak links of the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle will be strengthened. Evaluation studies will address the extent to which results have been achieved, thereby helping Member States to decide on the relevance and continuing value of programmes and subprogrammes.

197. The reduction of administrative costs and redeployment of resources will free financial resources for the Development Account, financing innovative activities in the economic and social fields. To this end, the administrative bureaucracy of the United Nations is being critically reviewed with particular attention to simplifying and streamlining procedures; reducing administrative redundancies by delegating more responsibility to programme managers; creating a fully electronic United Nations; modernizing Secretariat functions; and discontinuing activities that have outlived their usefulness.

198. Close to 1,000 posts were eliminated in the 1998-1999 programme budget. Three departments were consolidated into one, while one department was re-established as an independent entity. In addition, I set up a human resources task force, which conducted an intensive review of the critical human resources issues facing the Organization. Its recommendations will improve the Organization's ability to evaluate its human resources needs more effectively, greatly accelerate the recruitment process, introduce better career planning and establish ongoing staff training programmes to ensure that staff skills respond to changing demands. Creating a results-oriented, high-performance Organization requires increased investment in human resources. Targeted learning and development programmes are being made available to staff at all levels throughout the Secretariat. Changes in the Performance Appraisal System and other initiatives are indispensable elements in our efforts to introduce a results-based work culture.

199. Every permanent mission to the United Nations in New York is now connected to the United Nations via the Internet, and is thus able to access the United Nations Web site and all documents on the optical disk system. On-line virtual meetings are supplementing video conferencing, thereby reducing the need for travel and providing greater flexibility for meeting arrangements. Beginning-to-end electronic document management systems and other software are facilitating the transition towards a paperless office environment. These moves towards an electronic United Nations will be expanded in the future.

200. In solidifying and further advancing management reforms, the Department of Management will have to address a number of concerns. First and foremost is the need to ensure the full support and participation of all staff members in the reform initiatives. During the period of transition, the Department's primary challenge will be to guarantee that sufficient time and resources are invested in maintaining staff capacity, productivity and morale. Accordingly, adequate staff development opportunities and attractive conditions of service must be ensured. Continuing support by Member States for my management initiatives will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's efforts in this respect, as their support for flexibility, managerial initiative and responsive adjustments in the implementation of programmes will speed up the implementation of managerial reform and the delivery of mandated programmes.

201. The financial situation and outlook for the Organization during the past year have remained at best unchanged. As in previous years, projections for 1998 indicate that the Organization's combined cash reserves will drop further, to about \$577 million, from \$669 million at the end of 1997, the regular budget portion again showing a sizeable deficit. While the level of unpaid assessments has remained relatively constant, a further deterioration in the pattern of payments has occurred because previously prompt payers are delaying their payments more and more. As a result, less cash is available and obligations exceed cash balances. With a decreasing level of peacekeeping activity, the future availability of peacekeeping cash to bail out the regular budget cash deficit is in increasing doubt. Thus, the Organization's cash position is weak and getting weaker.

Legal affairs

202. The Office of Legal Affairs continues to provide a unified central legal service to the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and the other principal organs of the United Nations and the Member States. Legal research services were provided to a number of bodies involved in the legislative process, in particular the two Commissions for which the Office serves as secretariat: the International Law Commission and the United

Nations Commission on International Trade Law. Legal assistance was also provided for meetings of a large number of law-making bodies and conferences.

203. The Office of Legal Affairs participated in the drafting of a number of legal instruments, including the directive for the development of United Nations rules of engagement for military personnel and codes of conduct for staff members and other United Nations personnel. Advice was also provided on drafting a number of conventions and international instruments, including the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines and the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

204. The Office also advised States at the post-legislative stage, assisting them in implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and in the negotiating of additional international legal instruments compatible with that Convention.

205. Assistance was provided in the preparation and drafting of international agreements between the United Nations and other international organizations and institutions—for example, a relationship agreement with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and a draft cooperation agreement with the provisional secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. The Office also assisted in the conclusion of status-of-forces agreements between the United Nations and host States.

206. Another key activity of the Office of Legal Affairs was the negotiation of contracts, leases and other legal transactions of a private law nature which involve the Organization. The Office also played an essential role in devising major reforms in United Nations procurement procedures and developed a regime of limited liability in respect of third-party claims arising out of peacekeeping activities. The Office acted for the Organization in the settlement of claims brought either by the United Nations or against it, in particular commercial claims arising out of peacekeeping activities.

207. The Office of Legal Affairs represented the Organization before the two international tribunals. One case concerned the appearance of the former Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda before the International Tribunal for Rwanda. Another involved requests made in the course of proceedings before the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for access to United Nations documentation.

208. Advice was provided to United Nations organs and bodies to assist them in discharging their roles in the resolution of international disputes. For example, legal assistance was given to the group of experts whom I asked to investigate the Scottish legal system in order to devise a solution to the continuing problems arising out of the Lockerbie tragedy. Non-United Nations bodies, such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, were also assisted.

209. Legal instruments were prepared to ensure that the activities of the Organization were carried out within their proper legal limits, an example being the elaboration of a draft Secretary-General's bulletin on fundamental principles and rules of international humanitarian law applicable to United Nations forces in situations of armed conflict.

210. The Office began implementing its redesigned information programme aimed at promoting understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and thereby ensuring its consistent and effective application. Significant improvements were also made in the Office's publication programme. The production backlog of several regularly produced publications was eliminated, and new publications include an analytical guide to the work of the International Law Commission, a summary of the judgments and advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice and a complete index to the legal opinions appearing in the United Nations Juridical Yearbook. An audio-visual library in international law was established for lending to Governments and educational institutions.

211. In the year ahead, the Office of Legal Affairs intends to take advantage of the substantial recent increase in activity around the world aimed at reforming and modernizing commercial law by helping guide that activity in the direction of coordination, harmonization and unification of the laws of international trade. Yet another challenge of immediate concern to the Office will be to refine procedures and practices for coping, fairly and efficiently, with the increased number of requests for documents and other evidence expected to flow from the fast-growing workload of the two international tribunals.

Project services

212. The United Nations Office for Project Services provides implementation and management services to projects funded by United Nations organizations and programmes. Designed as an entirely self-financed and demand-driven organization, the Office functions like a business, yet in its operations it fully respects the values embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. It is now an important means for outsourcing inside the United Nations system. Demand for its services has been steadily increasing.

213. In 1997, the Office for Project Services delivered \$463 million in services and goods worldwide and administered the disbursement of \$151 million of loans by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to 63 countries. The Office has executed, or assisted in the national execution of, UNDP projects in all its focus areas. Contracted services span governance and poverty-alleviation programmes, environment programmes, and social rehabilitation and post-conflict reconstruction initiatives in 19 countries, including Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Haiti and Somalia.

214. In the framework of a 15-year-long partnership with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Office for Project Services continues to participate in the implementation of a large portion of drug control programmes. New partnerships are being forged between the Office and other United Nations bodies, such as the Department of Political Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. On behalf of the Department of Political Affairs, the Office set up mobile investigation teams and offices throughout Guatemala to enable the Clarification Commission to prepare a database on human rights violations, as agreed in the Guatemala Peace Agreements. The Office's Mine Action Unit is assisting in the design and management of mine-clearance programmes, notably in Croatia and Iraq.

215. For three consecutive years, the United Nations Office for Project Services has been able to operate successfully in accordance with the self-financing principle, generating enough income in implementation and supervision fees to cover all administrative expenses and to maintain a financial reserve at the prescribed level.

216. This performance is the result of the Office's own reform efforts. In addition to introducing value-for-money contracting, it has striven to lower costs and to improve the quality of its services by means of decentralization. Offices have been opened in Kuala Lumpur, Geneva and Copenhagen, as well as sub-offices in Nairobi and San Salvador. A new office was established in 1997 in Abidjan, initially devoted to servicing rural development projects financed or co-financed under IFAD loans in western and central Africa.

Accountability and oversight

217. In its fourth year of existence, the Office of Internal Oversight Services has significantly contributed to my reform programme. Its activities have covered all offices, from New York and Geneva to Nairobi and Vienna, the regional commissions, and many separately administered funds and programmes.

218. Special emphasis was placed this past year on ways in which the United Nations monitors improvements in its operations and reform initiatives. In addition to auditing all peacekeeping operations, the Office of Internal Oversight Services reviewed the programme administration of the headquarters of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its field activities in 14 countries. The lessons learned from the liquidation and closure of peacekeeping missions in Haiti, Liberia and the former Yugoslavia have now been institutionalized, and UNHCR procedures for the selection and supervision of implementing partners—the Governments and non-governmental organizations that are responsible for roughly 40 per cent of UNHCR annual programme expenditures—have been made more effective.

219. Management audits have become a highly effective oversight mechanism. For example, a management audit of the personnel recruitment process of the Office of Human Resources Management showed that it was expensive and time-consuming (with the average recruitment taking an incredible 460 days to complete), but that the Office was moving towards streamlining its practices. Similarly, a management audit of security at United Nations Headquarters found that this essential function was accorded a relatively low priority, and was neither adequately staffed nor funded. The Office of Internal Oversight Services recommended the allocation of additional capital funds to enhance the physical security of the United Nations premises, as well as a number of other security measures.

220. Guidelines on programme monitoring and evaluation were issued by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in November 1997, setting out the managerial elements of programme monitoring and evaluation that should be in place in each department and office. Training workshops and other services to help implement the guidelines are being established; the first workshop was held by ESCAP in December.

221. In-depth evaluations of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division were completed. Reviews of the implementation of recommendations adopted by the General Assembly three years ago on the start-up phase of peacekeeping operations and on UNEP were also undertaken. The Committee for Programme and Coordination reviewed those reports, as well as a report on strengthening the role of evaluation in departments and offices of the United Nations, endorsing all their recommendations. The programme management evaluation of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division was also conducted. It was found that the programme has become less focused and priorities are not given sufficient attention. The Division immediately accepted the findings of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and its recommendations.

222. The Office also prepared my recent report on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997, which reflects the extent of implementation of outputs identified in the programme budget. It indicates which programmed activities were modified during the biennium and which new activities were introduced, while highlighting the reasons for the non-implementation of programmed activities. Despite the financial constraints and the consequently high average personnel vacancy rate of 13 per cent, the balance sheet of the Organization in terms of output was largely positive: 80 per cent of mandated activities are implemented.

223. A follow-up review of the actions taken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in response to the recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in a report to the General Assembly of August 1995 revealed that the Field Administration and Logistics Division had taken appropriate and corrective action to address the concerns raised by the Office.

224. In its drive to increase accountability, the Office has also played a valuable role in helping to bring to justice a number of cases of fraud perpetrated against the Organization. One case involved a senior staff member and a sum of some \$600,000; others have involved outside contractors.

225. In the coming year, the Office will continue to support my efforts to reform and restructure the Secretariat in New York and major offices and programmes around the world. The focus will be on the restructuring of United Nations offices at Nairobi, as well as the reform of personnel recruitment and management, and the delivery of common services. A comprehensive review of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia will also be conducted.

226. In short, the critical institutional infrastructure that makes it possible for the United Nations to serve its clientele has undergone considerable change and innovation. Vital reforms in personnel policy must still be undertaken, but the Organization is more responsive, more efficient and more accountable than it was only a few short years ago.

VII. Conclusion

227. One of the founding missions of the United Nations was to prevent the scourge of war between States. As we move towards the new century, the international community has largely realized that goal. However, while inter-State war has become a relatively rare aberration, threats to human security have by no means been eradicated. Savage civil wars persist, terrorism strikes at innocent victims and the AIDS epidemic provides daily proof that not only armies move across borders and kill people. In some parts of the developing world poverty seems endemic.

228. Recent experience has shown that the quest for international peace and security requires complementary action on two fronts: on the security front, where victory spells freedom from fear; and on the economic and social front, where victory spells freedom from want. Human security and equitable and sustainable development turn out to be two sides of the same coin.

229. This past year we learned more clearly than ever before that the forces of globalization profoundly shape our ability to pursue these objectives: that they pose extraordinary opportunities as well as enormous challenges. Globalization has generated an unprecedented surge in prosperity. The market-friendly development strategies that created the so-called Asian economic miracle, for example, delivered hundreds of millions of people from poverty in less than three decades. Those same market forces last year substantially overshot any

needed market "correction". The consequences have been sobering—absolute declines in GDP, increased poverty, hunger, human rights abuses and violent social unrest.

230. Globalization puts a premium on good governance, and it can help devolve economic power from repressive regimes while creating the social space for the emergence of a thriving middle class and a robust civil society. On the other hand, it reduces the ability of Governments to deploy policy instruments free of external constraint and can thereby limit their capacity to help those most in need at home and abroad.

231. Global markets trade not only in economic goods but also in social ills—the illicit arms trade, for example, including components of weapons of mass destruction; the means to evade sanctions; the rapidly increasing traffic in human beings for sexual exploitation; the multitude of environmental challenges.

232. Globalization not only expands economic and social ties that unite; by corroding existing cultural identities it can also reinforce differences that divide.

233. The fact that globalization has these complex and potentially volatile consequences should occasion no surprise. Markets are purely instrumental means for the efficient allocation of resources. Maximizing the beneficial effects of market forces while minimizing their negative consequences has always required that they be coupled with the effective exercise of public authority: instituting the political and legal frameworks that markets require, and providing the safeguards against the deleterious effects they can produce. Whereas markets have become global, Governments remain local, however, and in key respects the capability gap between them is widening. Multilateral institutions have a critical role to play in bridging this gap. Only universal organizations like the United Nations have the scope and legitimacy to generate the principles, norms and rules that are essential if globalization is to benefit everyone.

234. The task ahead, therefore, is not to try to reverse globalization—an effort which, in any case, would be futile. The task is to harness its positive potential while managing its adverse effects. Strengthening multilateral institutions can help accomplish that task.

235. If globalization involves costs as well as benefits, being on the periphery of the global economy is even more problematic. Nowhere is this fundamental reality more starkly confirmed than in the case of Africa. Vicious circles of unsound policies, predatory politics, natural disasters, violent conflict and the neglect of the developed countries have isolated large parts of the continent from the mainstream of global development. In my report to the Security Council in April, I addressed the sources of conflict and how to achieve peace and sustainable development in Africa, laying out a programme of action for Africa and the international community alike. In the past six months the situation, especially in central Africa, has visibly worsened. There have been too many false starts, too many pledges of uncorrupt rule routinely violated, too many broken promises of transitions to democracy. All of Africa's leaders must honour their mandates and serve their people, and the international community must do its part so that Africa can, at long last, succeed in the quest for peace and greater prosperity.

236. In the countdown to the new century, we must carry forward the reform programme I initiated last year, and Member States must engage those reforms that lie within their purview with greater determination and vigour. Reforming the United Nations institutional machinery is but a first step towards refashioning its roles for the new era. It is my hope that the Millennium Assembly will make this challenge its agenda. We all need a vital and effective United Nations—this indispensable instrument for achieving our common goals, this unique expression of our common humanity.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter I (pp. 33–63)

International peace and security

AGENDA FOR PEACE, 33. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 38: Fiftieth anniversary of UN peacekeeping, 38; General aspects, 39; Comprehensive review of peacekeeping, 42; Operations in 1998, 44; Roster of 1998 operations, 46; Financial and administrative aspects of peacekeeping operations, 47. OTHER PEACEKEEPING MATTERS, 61: Demining, 61; Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, 63.

The year 1998 marked the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping. The General Assembly, at a special commemorative meeting on 6 October, adopted a Declaration in which it paid tribute to the hundreds of thousands of men and women who had served in more than 40 peacekeeping operations around the world and honoured the memory of more than 1,500 of them who had died in the cause of peace. During the year, the Organization continued to pursue its Charter objective of maintaining and promoting international peace and security. The Security Council, in a 29 December statement of its President, encouraged the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of establishing post-conflict peace-building structures as part of the Organization's efforts to achieve a lasting peaceful solution to conflicts. Efforts also continued towards the prevention and early resolution of conflicts. In July, the Secretary-General invited heads of regional organizations to a meeting in New York to discuss improving cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in promoting peace. In November, the Security Council set out its views on the role of regional arrangements in the maintenance of peace.

Over the course of the year, UN peacekeeping operations were deployed worldwide—in Europe, Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East—with 14,570 military personnel and civilian police serving under UN command at mid-year. The year began with 15 operations in place; two missions in Europe completed their mandates and two new missions were launched in Africa and one in Europe. The total number of missions deployed during the year was 18; those in place at the end of the year stood at 16.

In addition to its peacekeeping operations, the United Nations used other means to address conflict situations, including the deployment of diplomatic representatives to such areas of conflict as Afghanistan, Algeria and Angola—where the Secretary-General's Special Representative was killed in a plane crash on 26 June, along with seven others—as well as to Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations made recommendations on, among other matters, field administration and management, procurement, reimbursement arrangements, planning, training, standby arrangements, demining, logistics and communications, asset management and personnel issues related to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

The cost of UN peacekeeping operations amounted to \$879.3 million for the 12-month period ending 30 June 1998, compared with \$1,166.4 million in the previous 12-month period, while unpaid assessed contributions from Member States to peacekeeping budgets amounted to \$1,739.9 million as at 30 June 1998, compared with \$2,180.7 million as at 30 June 1997.

The General Assembly considered various aspects of peacekeeping financing in 1998, including the funding mechanism for the support account for peacekeeping operations, the phasing out of the use of gratis

personnel and the financing of the Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and adopted criteria and guidelines for third-party claims against the United Nations.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter II (pp. 64–209)

Africa

PROMOTION OF PEACE IN AFRICA, 65. GREAT LAKES REGION, 79: Democratic Republic of the Congo, 79; Rwanda, 88; Burundi, 95. ANGOLA, 100: Implementation of Lusaka Protocol, 100; Other matters, 120. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, 127: Implementation of Bangui Agreements, 127. ERITREA-ETHIOPIA, 144: Border dispute, 145; Human rights situation, 150. GUINEA-BISSAU, 150: Internal conflict, 151; Mediation efforts, 151; Ceasefire and political agreements, 152. LIBERIA, 155. LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, 156: Sanctions regime, 157; Initiative for trial of Pan Am 103 bombing suspects, 161; 1986 attack against Libya, 163. SIERRA LEONE, 163: Implementation of Conakry Agreement, 164; Termination of sanctions, 169; Further developments, 170; UNOMSIL, 173; Intensification of hostilities, 180; Security Council Committee, 181. SOMALIA, 182: Regional peace initiatives, 182; Arms embargo, 184; UNOSOM II financing, 184. SUDAN, 184: Sudan-United States, 185; Sudan-Eritrea, 186; Sudan-Uganda, 186. WESTERN SAHARA, 186: UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, 200. OTHER QUESTIONS, 204: Mozambique, 204; Cameroon-Nigeria, 206; Comoros, 206; Algeria, 207; Cooperation between OAU and the UN system, 207.

The perennial problems of ethnic conflict and political instability continued to afflict a number of countries in Africa in 1998. Although the situation in some countries, including those of the Great Lakes region, seemed to improve slightly compared with 1997, in others new or renewed incidents of fighting were reported, as in Angola and Sierra Leone and along the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia. During the year, the Security Council adopted a series of resolutions and statements on ways to promote durable peace and sustainable development in the region. Action taken by the Council included the establishment of a working group to review the Secretary-General's April recommendations on the causes of conflict and the promotion of peace and development in Africa; improving the effectiveness of arms embargoes; strengthening regional peacekeeping mechanisms; halting illicit arms flows to and within Africa; and protecting refugee camps. The Council President made statements on the causes of conflict and the promotion of peace, a ministerial meeting on Africa, regional arrangements in the maintenance of peace, and the possible establishment of post-conflict peace-building structures. In December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution encompassing all of those subjects.

In the Great Lakes region, the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remained volatile in 1998. The DRC Government established by President Laurent-Désiré Kabila in May 1997 was faced with renewed fighting by opposition forces in the eastern part of the country beginning in August 1998. The Security Council's International Commission of Inquiry, which had the mandate to collect information on the sale or supply of arms to former Rwandan government forces in the Great Lakes region, stated in a November report that elements of former Rwandan forces scattered throughout the region had converged in the DRC during the conflict that began in August and were involved in the fighting. The DRC accused Rwanda and Uganda of sending to it troops that were also reportedly involved in ethnic violence. Other countries of the region—Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe—provided assistance in the form of military forces to the DRC. Twice during the year, the Council expressed concern about the continuing conflict in the DRC and the threat to regional security. It also expressed support for regional mediation efforts and readiness to consider UN involvement to assist in implementing a ceasefire agreement.

In Rwanda, the presence of elements of the former Rwandan Armed Forces and militias in neighbouring countries was a contributing factor to the deteriorating security situation and the continuation of armed conflict in the country leading to the displacement of thousands of civilians, according to the International Commission of Inquiry. The UN presence in Rwanda was reduced in July when the Human Rights Field Operation was withdrawn following the failure of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Government to reach agreement on the terms of an OHCHR presence.

The situation in Burundi, despite some outbreaks of violence between ethnic groups, improved in 1998 through mediation efforts to find a negotiated solution. The Arusha Peace Process, begun in 1996, gained momentum at three sessions of inclusive talks under the guidance of the Facilitator of the peace process appointed by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). At those talks, attended by the Government, the National Assembly and 15 political parties, participants agreed on a ceasefire and a schedule for further work on future governmental bodies.

In Angola, the civil war resumed in many areas in 1998, largely due to the failure by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to comply with its obligations under the 1994 Lusaka Protocol. The security situation deteriorated further as UNITA again launched armed attacks, new minelaying activities and banditry, compelling the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) to withdraw from some of its team sites.

The military regime that had ruled Sierra Leone since a 1997 coup d'état was overthrown in February 1998, and in March the constitutionally elected President returned to Freetown. However, resistance by the ousted military junta, composed of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary United Front, continued throughout the year, creating a serious humanitarian crisis as thousands of Sierra Leoneans fled to other parts of the country and into neighbouring States. In March, the Council terminated the sanctions and arms embargo it had imposed against Sierra Leone in 1997, and in July it established the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) to monitor the security situation and report on human rights violations.

In March, the Council established a peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), which assumed the responsibilities of an inter-African force sent to that country in 1997. The mandate of the inter-African force was to monitor the implementation of the Bangui Agreements, by which the warring factions agreed to end the crisis and to hold legislative and presidential elections; the legislative elections were held in November and December under international monitoring.

The United Nations continued its efforts to find a political solution to the situation in Somalia, which remained a divided country without a national Government. Despite the 1997 signing by a number of Somali political leaders of the Cairo Declaration on a national reconciliation process, progress remained elusive. In other peacemaking efforts, OAU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mandated Ethiopia to take the lead mediating role. In December, the General Assembly, noting the fragile humanitarian and security situation and the absence of central authority and effective civil institutions, called for international humanitarian assistance and the economic and social rehabilitation of the country.

A border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia led to armed conflict in May. In letters to the Security Council, both sides expressed their views as to the origin and nature of the conflict and accused each other of aggression, as well as involvement in ethnic violence and human rights violations. The Council condemned the use of force and demanded that they immediately cease hostilities. OAU, together with a facilitator team

composed of Rwanda and the United States, played a pivotal role in the mediation efforts, which led in November to the adoption of a framework agreement for the peaceful settlement of the dispute.

The United Nations continued to work towards holding a referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, as agreed in 1990 by Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro (POLISARIO). Progress was made in the identification of voters, but by the end of the year the process stalled over identification of members of three tribal groupings.

In Guinea-Bissau, a conflict broke out in midyear between government forces and the self-proclaimed military junta. Following mediation efforts by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the two sides agreed on a truce in July and a ceasefire in August. In November, they signed the Abuja Agreement, by which they agreed to the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Guinea-Bissau, the interposition of an ECOWAS force, the establishment of a new Government of national unity and the holding of elections. The Security Council welcomed the Agreement and approved the ECOWAS force's mandate.

In 1998, the Sudan was involved in disputes with Eritrea and Uganda and it continued to suffer the effects of the civil war in the south. Although the two parties to the conflict agreed to a ceasefire under the auspices of IGAD, the humanitarian situation deteriorated and international emergency relief efforts were needed. In August, the United States bombed a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, about which the Security Council received a number of communications.

The sanctions imposed against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 1992 in order to obtain Libya's cooperation in turning over the two individuals suspected of involvement in a 1988 aircraft bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, were upheld once again by the Council in 1998. However, the Council welcomed the initiative taken by the United Kingdom and the United States to hold a trial of the two Libyan suspects before a Scottish court in a neutral country (the Netherlands). The Council decided that the sanctions regime against Libya would be suspended upon the arrival of the two suspects in the Netherlands.

The reconciliation and reconstruction of Liberia that had begun in 1997 after seven years of civil war progressed in 1998. The United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia played a leading role in that process.

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Chapter III (pp. 210–239)

Americas

CENTRAL AMERICA, 210: Guatemala, 214; El Salvador, 222; Nicaragua, 222. HAITI, 224: Civilian Police Mission, 224; International Civilian Mission to Haiti, 230; Financing of missions, 233. OTHER QUESTIONS, 236: Cuba-United States, 236; Cooperation with OAS, 237; Cooperation with CARICOM, 238; Peru-Ecuador, 239.

During 1998, the United Nations continued to provide assistance to countries in the Americas region in the attainment and consolidation of political stability, security, economic and social development, judicial reform and the full respect of human rights. The Organization continued to monitor the situation in Central America; for the second consecutive year, not one of the countries of that subregion was plagued by internal conflict.

The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), established in 1994, continued to fulfil its mandate by verifying compliance with the implementation of the peace accords signed in 1996 between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). In El Salvador and Nicaragua, the United Nations provided assistance for economic and social development. The democratization process in Nicaragua was consolidated further with the final demobilization of the last armed groups among the ex-combatants.

In Haiti, despite a prolonged political institutional crisis, the United Nations continued its cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS) through the jointly fielded International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH), established in 1993 to monitor the human rights situation. The United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH), established in 1997, supervised, supported and trained the Haitian National Police. The Security Council extended the mandate of MIPONUH until 30 November 1999.

In October, the General Assembly again called on States to refrain from promulgating laws and measures, such as the ongoing United States economic embargo against Cuba. In other action, the Assembly adopted resolutions on strengthening UN cooperation with OAS and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

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Chapter IV (pp. 240–323)

Asia and the Pacific

IRAQ, 241: UN Special Commission, 241; Limitations on UNSCOM, 251; IAEA activities, 263; Arms and related sanctions, 267; Oil-for-food programme, 269; UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, 281; UN Compensation Commission and Fund, 284; Other matters, 286. AFGHANISTAN, 287: Situation in Afghanistan, 288; UN activities, 295. TAJIKISTAN, 302. KOREA QUESTION, 313. CAMBODIA, 316. PAPUA NEW GUINEA, 319. OTHER MATTERS, 321.

In the Asia and Pacific region, ongoing UN activities to verify Iraq's compliance with its weapons-related obligations under Security Council resolution 687(1991), which brought a formal ceasefire to the 1991 Gulf War, suffered a major setback in 1998. A crisis was narrowly averted in February when, in the light of Iraq's continued refusal to allow the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with verifying its disarmament to conduct further inspection activities, the Secretary-General travelled to Baghdad and negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding on access to sensitive sites. As a result of that agreement, UNSCOM's inspections resumed in March. However, as the year progressed, Iraq's resistance to transparency and sustained full cooperation stiffened and UNSCOM remained unable to report to the Council that Iraq had finally fulfilled its obligations so that the sanctions on it could be lifted. Iraq's posture ultimately led UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the specialized agency monitoring Iraq's nuclear activities, to withdraw from the country on 16 December. Following the withdrawal, the United States and the United Kingdom took independent military action against Iraq. In view of the continuing sanctions, the Council extended to 24 May 1999 the 1995 humanitarian programme for the Iraqi people based on an oil-for-food formula and raised the limit on the production of Iraqi oil to allow increased purchases of humanitarian goods.

In Afghanistan, the military confrontation between the Taliban and the United Front (formerly the Northern Alliance) continued, resulting in significant territorial gains by the Taliban. Despite repeated calls by the Council and the General Assembly, external military support flowed unabated to both parties. Grave breaches of human rights and international humanitarian law were reported in the wake of the fighting, including blockades of humanitarian relief deliveries. Nonetheless, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, with support from the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, intensified his efforts to bring about intra-Afghan talks. The Assembly, in December, called on the Afghan parties to cease all armed hostilities and to engage in a political dialogue under UN auspices aimed at a political settlement through a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government that would protect the rights of all Afghans and observe Afghanistan's international obligations.

The implementation of the 1997 General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan was hampered by several political crises and by the volatile security situation in parts of the country. The Assembly, in December, encouraged the parties to expedite the full implementation of the General Agreement and encouraged the Commission on National Reconciliation, the main implementing body, to continue its efforts to institute a broad dialogue among the various Tajik political forces in the interests of restoring and strengthening civil accord.

On the Korean peninsula, the United Nations Command continued to monitor the 1953 Armistice Agreement. Despite the persistent efforts of IAEA, it remained unable to obtain full compliance from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) with its nuclear safeguards agreement with the Agency. In November, the Assembly called on the DPRK to comply with that agreement.

In Cambodia, the United Nations coordinated the international monitoring of the elections that took place in July, which were judged to be sufficiently free and fair and credibly reflective of the Cambodian people's will. The elections produced a new coalition Government in November, ending the crisis that led to the collapse 17 months before of the first (1993) coalition Government. Combined with guarantees from the Cambodian authorities, the political monitoring role of the United Nations, completed in September 1998, provided for the safe return of the political leaders who had fled Cambodia in 1997.

Also during the year, the United Nations agreed to establish a presence in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, to help the parties that had been engaged in nine years of fighting to implement their recently concluded peace accords.

Other political matters within the region drawn to the attention of the United Nations concerned relations between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir; the violations of Iran's territorial integrity by the United States; the continual disregard of the 1988 ceasefire agreement between Iraq and Iran; and the dispute between the United Arab Emirates and Iran regarding the islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.

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Chapter V (pp. 324–422)

Europe and the Mediterranean

THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, 325: UN operations, 325; State succession issues, 325. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, 326: Implementation of Peace Agreement, 327. CROATIA, 347: End of UNTAES mission in Croatia, 347; Post-UNTAES situation, 350; UN Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP), 356. THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM), 360: UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), 360. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (FRY), 365: Situation in Kosovo, 366. GEORGIA, 389: UN Observer Mission in Georgia, 390. ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN, 403. CYPRUS, 405: Good offices mission, 409; UNFICYP, 411. OTHER ISSUES, 418: Cooperation with OSCE, 418; Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, 421.

The fragile peace in the Balkans was disrupted in 1998 by the escalation of the crisis in the Kosovo province of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (FRY), creating new challenges for the United Nations and the international community, and having the potential for serious spillover effects in the surrounding countries. That situation, as well as those in other parts of the former Yugoslavia—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—highlighted the continuing concern of the international community for the maintenance of international peace and security in that region.

During the year, United Nations peacekeeping efforts in the countries of the former Yugoslavia achieved measured success. Its Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) continued to assist the parties in implementing the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes (also known as the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement) and the separate Dayton Agreement on implementing the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The General Assembly welcomed the successful implementation of certain aspects of that Agreement and reiterated its demand for its full implementation. In May, the Security Council authorized an increase in UNMIBH police personnel and agreed to consider an UNMIBH-led court-monitoring programme. In June, the Council extended UNMIBH's mandate until 21 June 1999. It also authorized the multinational Stabilization Force (SFOR), led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which was responsible for the military aspects of the Peace Agreement, to continue for a further 12 months.

The mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) ended successfully on 15 January. On 13 February, the Council stated that the experience of the multifunctional UNTAES operation might be useful for similar situations in the future. UNTAES was replaced on 16 January by the United Nations Civilian Police Support Group of 180 civilian police monitors, which continued to monitor the performance of the Croatian police in the Danube region. The Support Group's mandate ended on 15 October and its responsibilities were handed over to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), thereby ending direct UN involvement in that region.

The United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) continued to monitor the demilitarization of the disputed Prevlaka peninsula and the neighbouring areas in Croatia and FRY. During

the year, both Croatia and FRY submitted drafts of a proposed agreement on a permanent solution and began negotiations towards that end. The Council extended UNMOP's mandate until 15 January 1999.

The relative success of the UNTAES and UNMOP missions was, however, overshadowed by the scope and intensity of the conflict in Kosovo, which escalated dramatically during the year, leading to a potential humanitarian catastrophe. The Council, in March, imposed an arms embargo on FRY and, in September, demanded that both sides cease hostilities, maintain a ceasefire and enter immediately into a meaningful dialogue. The Kosovo crisis also led the Council to extend the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force in the neighbouring former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia until 28 February 1999. The situation stabilized in October following an agreement between FRY President Slobodan Milosevic and the United States Special Representative, Richard Holbrooke, on modalities for ending the conflict. In October, the Council endorsed the establishment of the OSCE/NATO Kosovo Verification Mission. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General decided that the United Nations role on the ground in Kosovo should be directed towards the complex humanitarian and human rights situation, resulting from the armed conflict there.

In other parts of Europe, the United Nations intensified efforts to reinvigorate the Georgian/Abkhaz peace process and to stabilize the situation in the zone of conflict through the efforts of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). Of major concern during the year was the security environment in which UNOMIG operated, following numerous attacks on its personnel and facilities. In November, the Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal to increase the number of international and local lightly armed security personnel to provide internal security to the Mission's installations. The Council extended UNOMIG's mandate until 31 January 1999.

The prospects of bringing about a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus conflict improved somewhat when the Greek and Turkish sides agreed to the Secretary-General's proposal that his Deputy Special Representative for Cyprus begin a process of on-island talks with both parties, which began on 16 October, with a view to reducing tension and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement.

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Chapter VI (pp. 423–485)

Middle East

PEACE PROCESS, 424: Overall situation, 424; Occupied territories, 424; Jerusalem, 434. ISSUES RELATED TO PALESTINE, 445: General aspects, 445; Assistance to Palestinians, 454; UNRWA, 456. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, 472: Lebanon, 472; Syrian Arab Republic, 480.

In 1998, the United Nations continued to support the Middle East peace process and remained involved in the region in a number of ways—through its peacekeeping operations, through the good offices of the Secretary-General, as well as through programmes of economic, social and other forms of assistance. The peace process, which began in Madrid, Spain, in 1991, regained momentum in late October with the signing of the Wye River Memorandum between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Despite the revived peace negotiations, however, one of the principal stumbling blocks to the peace process remained the growth of settlements throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, especially in and around Jerusalem. Settlement activities led to an increase in tensions and violence, further undermining the confidence between Israelis and Palestinians. No headway was made in the Israel-Syrian Arab Republic negotiations. In March, the Secretary-General visited the region, including Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

In view of Israel's decision to broaden the jurisdiction and planning boundaries of Jerusalem, the Security Council met in June to discuss the issue. The President of the Council issued a statement calling on Israel not to proceed with the expansion of the municipality and not to take any other steps that would prejudice the outcome of the permanent status negotiations.

In March, the General Assembly resumed its tenth emergency special session, which first convened in 1997, to discuss the item "Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory". The Assembly demanded, among other things, that Israel comply with the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the emergency special session in 1997 and recommended that the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) hold a conference on measures to enforce the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Assembly also recommended that the Government of Switzerland, as the depositary of the Convention, undertake the necessary steps to prepare for that conference.

In July, the Assembly conferred on Palestine additional rights and privileges, including the right to participate in the general debate, to speak under any agenda items in the plenary, and to exercise the right of reply. However, Palestine would not have the right to vote.

The Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories served as the focal point for UN assistance to the Palestinians. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to provide a wide-ranging programme of education, health, relief and social services to over 3.5 million Palestinian refugees living both in and outside camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Faced with the prospect of financial insolvency, UNRWA had been obliged to enforce austerity measures and to make an extraordinary appeal for additional contributions to avoid a disruption in services.

During the year, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories reported to the General Assembly on the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People continued to mobilize international support for the Palestinians.

The situation in southern Lebanon remained volatile and dangerous during 1998, with a rising level of hostilities and an increase in the number of civilian casualties. In the context of Israel-Lebanon negotiations, the Israeli Ministerial Committee for National Security decided to accept Security Council resolution 425(1978) [YUN 1978, p. 312], by which the Israel Defence Forces were to leave southern Lebanon under proper security arrangements, while the Lebanese Government was to assume control of the area and guarantee that its territory was not used as a base for terrorist activities against Israel. The withdrawal had yet to take place at the end of 1998. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) pursued efforts to limit the conflict and protect inhabitants from its consequences. The mandates of UNIFIL and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the 424 Political and security questions Golan Heights were both extended twice during the year, and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) continued to assist both peacekeeping operations in their tasks.

By **decision 53/426** of 8 December, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the agenda item entitled "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security" and included it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth (1999) session. The item had been inscribed yearly on the Assembly's agenda since 1981, following the bombing by Israel of a nuclear research centre near Baghdad [YUN 1981, p. 275].

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter VII (pp. 486–552)

Disarmament

UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT, 487: UN machinery, 487. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, 492: Conference on Disarmament, 492; START and other bilateral agreements and unilateral measures, 495; Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 503; Non-Proliferation Treaty, 509; IAEA safeguards, 509; Nuclear safety and radioactive waste, 511; Prohibition of use of nuclear weapons, 512; Advisory opinion of International Court of Justice, 513; Nuclear-weapon-free zones, 514. BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS, 519: Bacteriological (biological) weapons, 519; Chemical weapons, 522. CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, 524: Small arms, 524; Convention on excessively injurious conventional weapons and Protocols, 530; Practical disarmament, 531; Transparency, 532; Antipersonnel mines, 536. REGIONAL AND OTHER APPROACHES TO DISARMAMENT, 537: Africa, 537; Asia and the Pacific, 539; Europe, 540; Latin America, 541. OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES, 543: Prevention of an arms race in outer space, 543; Seabed treaty, 544; Disarmament and development, 544; Science and technology, 545; Arms limitation and disarmament agreements, 546. STUDIES, INFORMATION AND TRAINING, 547.

During 1998, in all multilateral disarmament forums, differences persisted between a majority of non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon States on how to address nuclear disarmament. Nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan in May, which influenced the deliberations on almost all nuclear issues, drew expressions of concern from the international community. The vast majority of States condemned the tests because they undermined the existing non-proliferation regime and the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Later in the year, India and Pakistan declared unilateral moratoriums on further tests.

The Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization and its subsidiary bodies proceeded with the task of establishing an effective global verification regime and with other activities necessary to implement the Treaty.

The Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held its second session. Divergence of views on substantive issues, particularly on article VI of the Treaty, as well as different interpretations of the decisions adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference prevailed, resulting in no progress in drafting substantive recommendations to the Review Conference. Thus, the Committee adopted decisions only on procedural questions. The International Atomic Energy Agency continued its efforts to strengthen and make more effective its safeguards system and the number of States that signed the Model Additional Protocol to the existing agreements on safeguards increased during the year.

At the bilateral level, the United States and the Russian Federation continued to reduce their nuclear arsenals on the basis of existing treaties, but the ratification of the 1993 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II) by Russia was not finalized. All nuclear-weapon States reported that they had unilaterally undertaken a number of measures, such as reducing their stocks of nuclear weapons and putting under safeguards part of their fissile materials.

At the regional level, the process of further consolidating the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones continued, and negotiations on basic elements of a Central Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty began. In December, the Assembly welcomed the declaration by Mongolia of its nuclear-weapon-free status.

Efforts to strengthen the 1971 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction through the development of a protocol to the Convention continued throughout the year. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which celebrated its first full year of operation in 1998, continued its activities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and the Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Conference of States Parties to the Convention and the OPCW Executive Council adopted a number of decisions concerning the functioning of the Organization.

At the global level, the subjects of small arms, including illicit trafficking, and transparency in armaments were addressed in the United Nations and other multilateral forums. In December, the Assembly decided to convene an international conference on the illicit arms trade no later than 2001.

During the year two legal instruments dealing with anti-personnel mines were strengthened. The 1996 amended Protocol on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects entered into force in December, and the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention) received the required number of ratifications to launch its entry into force on 1 March 1999.

The Conference on Disarmament, at its three-part session in 1998, considered cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments.

In April, the Disarmament Commission considered establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament.

Part One: Political and security questions

Chapter VIII (pp. 553–598)

Other political and security questions

GENERAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 553: Maintenance of international security—prevention of the violent disintegration of States, 553; Support for democracies, 555. REGIONAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 556: South Atlantic, 556. DECOLONIZATION, 558: Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 559; Puerto Rico, 570; Territories under review, 570; New concept of trusteeship, 582. INFORMATION, 582: UN public information, 582. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, 589: Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 589; Legal Subcommittee, 593. EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION, 596. MILLENNIUM ASSEMBLY, 597.

The United Nations continued in 1998 to consider a number of political and security issues relating to the prevention of the disintegration of States, support for new and restored democracies, and the promotion of self-determination of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as the peaceful uses of outer space. The work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the continued reform of UN information policies, the Secretary-General's proposals on the future of the Trusteeship Council and the convening in 2000 of a special Millennium Assembly of the United Nations were also discussed.

The General Assembly affirmed the need for the United Nations to help prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and economic and social development of all peoples. UN support of government efforts to promote new or restored democracies continued through the activities of the follow-up mechanism to the 1997 Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development. The Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to improve the Organization's capacity to provide coherent and adequate support for Member States' efforts to achieve good governance and democratization. It acted on regional security issues concerning the South Atlantic, based on reports of UN activities in that area.

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples continued in 1998 to review progress in implementing that 1960 Declaration, in particular the exercise of self-determination by the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the Declaration's immediate and full implementation and to carry out actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (1990-2000).

The United Nations continued the reform of its information policies, initiated in 1997, underscoring the important role of communications as an integral part of the Organization's substantive programme and ensuring its integration into the work of all departments and organizations of the UN system.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two subcommittees discussed ways to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes and to promote the spin-off benefits of space technology. It continued preparations to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) as a special session of the Committee in 1999.

The Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation that its current functions and independent role in assessing the levels of exposure and

effects of radiation, including reporting arrangements, be maintained. It deferred to 1999 consideration of the Secretary-General's proposal for the future role of the Trusteeship Council, inactive since 1994. It designated the Assembly's fifty-fifth (2000) session as the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations and decided to convene as an integral part of it a Millennium Summit of the United Nations.

Part Two: Human rights

Chapter I (pp. 601–642)

Promotion of human rights

UN MACHINERY, 601: Commission on Human Rights, 601; Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 602; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 603; Strengthening UN action, 606. HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS, 611: General aspects, 611; Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocols, 616; Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 617; Convention against racial discrimination, 617; Convention against torture, 620; Convention on elimination of discrimination against women, 622; Convention on the Rights of the Child, 623; Convention on migrant workers, 624; Convention on genocide, 625; Convention against apartheid, 626. OTHER ACTIVITIES, 626: Follow-up to 1993 World Conference, 626; Advisory services and technical cooperation, 628; Public information, 635; Human rights education, 635; Culture of peace, 638; National institutions and regional arrangements, 639; Cooperation with UN human rights bodies, 642.

In 1998, the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was commemorated under the theme "All human rights for all". Activities focused on enhancing the implementation of human rights and preventing violations, reaching people with the human rights message and strengthening partnerships for human rights within and outside the UN system. The five-year review of the implementation of the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action also took place.

Human rights instruments and their monitoring bodies continued to promote civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, and to address racial discrimination, discrimination against women, the protection of children, and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In November, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World. In December, it adopted the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Part Two: Human rights
Chapter II (pp. 643–725)
Protection of human rights

RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, 643: Third Decade against racism, 643. OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE, 653: Follow-up to UN Year for Tolerance, 653; Discrimination against minorities, 654; Religious intolerance, 655. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, 658: Right to self-determination, 658; Administration of justice, 662; Other issues, 669; Peace and security, 682. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, 683: Right to development, 683; Extreme poverty, 691; Right to adequate housing, 693; Right to food, 693; Right to education, 694; Scientific concerns, 695; Slavery and related issues, 697; Vulnerable groups, 698.

The protection of the human rights of all citizens of the world continued in 1998 to be central to the work of the United Nations, which carried out activities covering almost all aspects of the relationship between the individual and the State. During the year, UN bodies monitored the implementation of legal instruments that proscribed racism, racial discrimination and religious and other forms of intolerance; and spelled out the duties of Governments in respect of ensuring civil and political and economic, social and cultural rights, and protecting minorities and vulnerable groups.

The General Assembly, in December, proclaimed the year 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at drawing attention to the objectives of the World Conference on the subject, scheduled to convene not later than 2001.

Special Rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts of the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary body, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, examined, among other questions, the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations; independence of the judicial system; conditions during states of emergency; allegations of torture; extra-legal executions; forced evictions; housing; environmental issues; violence against women; practices affecting the health of women and children; sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; migrant workers; protection of indigenous heritage; and indigenous land rights. In April, the Commission asked its Chairman to appoint an expert to revise the 1997 draft basic principles and guidelines on the right to reparation for victims of [gross] violations of human rights and international law, for submission in 1999, with a view to adoption by the Assembly. In July, the Economic and Social Council approved the Commission's recommendations to appoint special rapporteurs on the right to education and on the effects of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and an independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty.

Working groups considered arbitrary detention, enforced or involuntary disappearances, the administration of justice, the right to development, contemporary forms of slavery and indigenous populations. The working group on the administration of justice, in August, approved an amended draft international convention on the protection of all persons from forced disappearance and asked the Subcommission to transmit the draft to the Commission.

Part Two: Human rights
Chapter III (pp. 726–768)
Human rights violations

GENERAL ASPECTS, 726. AFRICA, 726: Algeria, 726; Burundi, 726; Democratic Republic of the Congo, 727; Equatorial Guinea, 731; Nigeria, 732; Rwanda, 735; Sudan, 738. AMERICAS, 739: Colombia, 739; Mexico, 741. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 741: Afghanistan, 741; Bhutan, 744; Cambodia, 744; Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 744; East Timor, 744; Iran, 745; Iraq, 747; Myanmar, 751. EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN, 754: Belarus, 754; Cyprus, 754; The former Yugoslavia, 754. MIDDLE EAST, 767: Lebanon, 767; Territories occupied by Israel, 767.

Alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in a number of countries were examined in 1998 by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as by special rapporteurs, special representatives of the Secretary-General and independent experts appointed to examine the allegations.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter I (pp. 771–797)

Development policy and international economic cooperation

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 771: Development and international economic cooperation, 771; Sustainable development, 779; Follow-up to UNCED and to nineteenth special session, 781; Eradication of poverty, 782; Science and technology for development, 786. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS AND POLICY, 787. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 790: Development planning, 790; Public administration, 791. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 792: Least developed countries, 792; Island developing countries, 794; Landlocked developing countries, 797.

During 1998, the East Asian financial crisis, recession in Japan and the Russian crisis—along with contagion through the world financial markets—combined to halve the rate of growth of the world economy and to raise concern about global recession. The number of countries that saw an increase in output per capita in 1998 was 23 fewer than in the previous year. However, the world economic situation was not uniformly bleak. Output per capita was on the rise in more than 100 countries in 1998, with economic growth relatively strong in North America, much of Europe, including some transition economies, China and India.

The countries that were especially vulnerable to the wave of financial and economic crises during the year were those that had taken relatively greater steps to liberalize their economies and integrate them into the global system. Against that backdrop, international attention was focused on the risks that accompanied the benefits of globalization and interdependence in the world economy. In April, the challenges of globalization were central to the discussions at a high-level meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)). The General Assembly held a special two-day ministerial dialogue in September to address the social and economic impact of globalization as it related to strengthening international economic cooperation for development. In December, the Assembly decided to hold the high-level dialogue biennially to provide impetus for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development.

Substantive issues discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 1998 session included technology transfer, capacitybuilding, education and science for sustainable development. A high-level interactive segment discussed issues related to industry and sustainable development.

The eradication of poverty continued to be a focus of United Nations efforts related to economic development. In June, the Administrative Committee on Coordination issued a statement of commitment for action to eradicate poverty, by which the executive heads of UN organizations committed themselves to renewed collaboration in that area. The Assembly, in December resolutions, addressed implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and proclaimed the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit in recognition of the role of microcredit programmes in the eradication of poverty and their contribution to social development.

The unique development needs and vulnerabilities of countries in special situations—economies in transition, the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries—were also of continuing concern to UN organizations in 1998.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter II (pp. 798–839)

Operational activities for development

SYSTEM-WIDE ACTIVITIES, 798: Financing of operational activities, 808. TECHNICAL COOPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 809: UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, 810; UNDP operational activities, 811; Programme planning and management, 819; Financing, 827. OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION, 830: UN activities, 830; UN Office for Project Services, 830; UN Volunteers, 834; Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, 835; UN Capital Development Fund, 837; UN fellowships, 837.

In 1998, the income of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—the central United Nations funding body for technical assistance to developing countries—totalled \$2,317 million, as compared with \$1,973 million in 1997. Despite the increase, total voluntary contributions received in 1998 decreased to \$746 million, from \$761 million in 1997. UNDP expenditures on operational activities under regular resources reached \$1,764 million in 1998, up from \$1,529 million in 1997.

A comprehensive policy review of UN operational activities for development was concluded in 1998. In May, the Secretary-General submitted an interim report to the Economic and Social Council and a final version was completed in August for consideration by the General Assembly. The Assembly, in December, adopted a broad policy outline for future operational activities for development in the UN system.

UNDP activities in 1998 focused on five legislated priority areas: an enabling environment for sustainable human development, particularly through good governance; poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods; environmental protection; gender equality and the advancement of women; and responding to countries with special development needs. The rapidly changing external environment in 1998, with events such as war, genocide, refugee movements, financial volatility, environmental degradation and growing social pressures stemming from increasing inequity, brought increased demand for UNDP support. In response, UNDP made proposals to narrow the focus of its interventions and guidelines to help it do so. The Administrator also reported on progress in implementing UNDP 2001—its change management process for recasting the organization's priorities and improving efficiency. In an effort to restore predictability in its income, UNDP adopted a multi-year results-based funding framework.

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) remained a fully self-financing operation, with no assessed budget funding. In 1998, it exceeded its financial targets, and total delivery rose by 16 per cent to \$713 million. Projects funded from UNDP core resources decreased by 22 per cent in 1998; however, new arrangements for UNOPS activities, signed by UNDP with a range of funding sources, were valued at \$250 million, up from \$150 million in 1997.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme continued to expand in 1998, both in the number of volunteers and the types of service provided. Despite its expanded programme, overall income for UNV decreased by 18 per cent to \$17.8 million.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund continued to focus its support on activities in local governance, decentralization, participation and microfinancing, with particular emphasis on local governance.

The Secretary-General, in his triennial review of UN system operational activities, examined the role of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries. The Assembly requested the system to improve the incorporation of that cooperation in its programmes and projects. On 7 October, the Assembly held a special meeting in commemoration of the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter III (pp. 840–878)

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, 840: Coordination, 840; Resource mobilization, 843; Mine clearance, 843; New international humanitarian order, 846; Humanitarian activities, 846. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 862: African economic recovery and development, 862; Other economic assistance, 868. DISASTER RELIEF, 870: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 870; Disaster assistance, 874.

In 1998, the United Nations, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, continued to coordinate the collective efforts of the international community, in particular those of the UN system, to provide humanitarian and special economic assistance to States and population groups afflicted by complex emergencies and natural disasters. Consolidated inter-agency appeals were launched or ongoing in Angola, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, Guinea-Bissau, Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan and Tajikistan. An appeal for the territories of the former Yugoslavia included Albania. There was also a United Nations response to the war-displaced in Ethiopia. The amount sought for the appeals totalled \$2,163 million, of which \$1,301 million was received, meeting 53.9 per cent of the requirements.

The world's worst humanitarian crisis in 1998 occurred in the Sudan where a combination of a five-year drought and intensified conflict produced a major famine in the Bahr Al Ghazal region that put nearly 800,000 persons at risk of starvation. Although the situation eventually stabilized, with death rates and malnutrition declining dramatically after mid-August, Bahr Al Ghazal remained a devastated region at year-end with hundreds of thousands of people dependent upon emergency assistance.

In 1998, some 700 natural disasters claimed the lives of more than 50,000 people and caused economic losses exceeding \$90 billion.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IV (pp. 879–915)

International trade, finance and transport

INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 879: Trade policy, 884; Trade promotion and facilitation, 886; Commodities, 890; Consumer protection, 893. FINANCE, 893: Financial policy, 893; Financing for development, 905; Investment, technology and related financial issues, 906. TRANSPORT, 909: Maritime transport, 909; Transport of dangerous goods, 909. UNCTAD INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS, 909: UNCTAD programme, 909.

In 1998, growth in the volume of world trade, which began to slow with the onset of the Asian crisis in mid-1997, decelerated. In value terms, world trade not only failed to grow; it underwent its strongest decline since 1982. Trade performance differed widely among regions, reflecting the changing pattern of demand and output growth and the impact of the decline in most commodity prices.

The Trade and Development Report, 1998— produced by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the focal point for the integrated treatment of the interrelated issues of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development—focused on international financial instability and the world economy, and African development in a comparative perspective. Having considered the report, the Trade and Development Board (TDB), UNCTAD's governing body, stated that the current financial crisis afflicting the world economy had systemic elements, and countries affected could not deal with the problem in isolation. An effective response needed to combine measures at the national and international levels.

The Economic and Social Council devoted its high-level segment in July to the theme of market access: developments since the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, implications, opportunities and challenges in the context of globalization and liberalization. It agreed that a global open market and the rejection of protectionist measures were key elements to overcome the financial crisis and promote growth and development. Having considered the Council's conclusions, the General Assembly, in December, emphasized the importance of continued trade liberalization in developed and developing countries, and of an enabling international environment to support crisis-hit countries and prevent further contagion. It requested the Secretary-General to analyse trends in financial flows and modalities to improve early warning, prevention and response capabilities for dealing with the emergence and spread of financial crises in a timely manner.

In other action on financial issues, the Assembly invited creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions to consider appropriate measures in cases with a very high level of debt overhang, and to continue their efforts to address the commercial debt problems of least developed countries. In the area of commodities, the Assembly expressed the urgent need for supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets, and urged developed countries to support the commodity diversification and liberalization efforts of developing countries.

The Assembly endorsed new administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre, under the joint sponsorship of UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

TDB conducted a special high-level mid-term review of the ninth session of UNCTAD, held in 1996, which assessed global developments since then, the expectations for the next two years and future prospects looking forward to the tenth session of the Conference in 2000.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter V (pp. 916–971)

Regional economic and social activities

REGIONAL COOPERATION, 916. AFRICA, 918: Economic and social trends, 918; Activities in 1998, 921; Programme, administrative and organizational questions, 926. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 928: Economic trends, 929; Activities in 1998, 930; Programme and organizational questions, 945; Subregional activities, 946. EUROPE, 948: Economic trends, 949; Activities in 1998, 950. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 954: Economic trends, 955; Activities in 1998, 956; Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, 965; Programme and organizational questions, 966. WESTERN ASIA, 967: Economic and social trends, 967; Activities in 1998, 969; Programme and organizational questions, 971.

In 1998, the five United Nations regional commissions continued their efforts to promote economic and social development throughout their areas. Three met for regular sessions during the year at their headquarters: the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (Bangkok, Thailand); the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (Geneva); and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (Santiago, Chile), which marked its fiftieth anniversary. Neither the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) nor the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held regular sessions in 1998. Both were scheduled to meet next in May 1999. In celebration of its fortieth anniversary in April/May, ECA convened the International Conference on African Women and Economic Development: Investing in our Future.

During the year, in the context of the overall UN reform process, all five commissions continued to implement reform measures aimed at rationalizing their work, allowing them to be more responsive to global challenges, taking into account the specific interests and needs of each region. ESCAP adopted a resolution on follow-up to the restructuring of its programme and organization; it also adopted the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, containing a set of recommendations for national action on planning and target-setting, mobilizing enablers, capacity-building through human resources development, resource mobilization and monitoring evaluation. Also in the context of UN reform, ECE adopted a resolution on the review of the UN regional commissions by the Economic and Social Council, which reaffirmed the need to strengthen cooperation between ECE and other bodies on issues of common concern. Those measures were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council, which also adopted a resolution on strengthening the relationship between ECA and UN agencies and regional and subregional organizations in Africa and on ECA's revised medium-term plan for 1998-2001. The Council also provided overall guidance for improving the contributions and relevance of the regional commissions to the UN reform process.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VI (pp. 972–979)

Natural resources, energy and cartography

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, 972. NATURAL RESOURCES, 972: Freshwater resources, 972; Exploration, 975. ENERGY, 975: New and renewable sources of energy, 975; Nuclear energy, 976. CARTOGRAPHY, 978.

The development and conservation of natural resources and the efficient use of renewable sources of energy were considered by several UN bodies during 1998. Particular attention was paid to freshwater resources development, use, management and protection by the Commission on Sustainable Development. In October, the General Assembly endorsed the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, aimed at improving the quality of life in both industrialized and developing countries through the wider use of renewable energies, notably in the rural areas of developing countries.

The Economic and Social Council, in July, merged the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development into a single body, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development. That body was to meet in 1999.

The report of the International Atomic Energy Agency was presented to the General Assembly in November by its Director General; the Assembly took note of it and affirmed its confidence in the role of the Agency in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held in New York in January.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VII (pp. 980–1000)

Environment

UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, 980: Regional offices, 986. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND MECHANISMS, 986: Implementation of conventions related to sustainable development, 986; Climate change convention, 987; Conventions related to ozone layer, 988; Convention on air pollution, 989; Convention on Biological Diversity, 989; Convention to combat desertification, 991. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES, 993: The atmosphere, 993; Terrestrial ecosystems, 993; Marine ecosystems, 995; Conservation of wildlife, 997; Protection against harmful products and wastes, 997; Environmental emergencies, 999; Other matters, 999.

In 1998, the United Nations and the international community continued efforts to protect Earth's environment by adopting or refining several legally binding instruments. Mainly through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), advice and assistance were provided to Member States on environmental protection issues.

In September, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries adopted the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which covered a list of five industrial chemicals and 22 pesticides. Chemicals and pesticides that were banned or severely restricted by two or more parties from different regions would be included in the list, as would certain severely hazardous pesticide formulations that posed problems under conditions of use in developing countries. Parties would be required to provide export notifications to countries regarding chemicals that had been banned or severely restricted in their territory.

The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change took place in November when it adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action to reduce the risk of global climate change and accelerate work on the Convention. It made refinements to the clean development mechanism, which would give industrialized countries credits for financing emissions-avoiding projects in developing countries. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, created to assess scientific information on human-induced climate change, decided in October to establish a Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

In observance of the 1998 International Year of the Ocean, proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1994, conferences, workshops and training cruises were arranged and major publications were dedicated to the Year.

A regional ministerial conference on the theme "Environment for Europe" (Aarhus, Denmark, June) adopted the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, which opened for signature on 25 June.

The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) took place in Montreal in June/July. The meeting gave the UNEP secretariat a mandate to prepare a new draft outlining the substantive articles that could be contained in the future convention. The meeting also established an

expert group to develop science-based criteria and a procedure to identify additional POPs as candidates for future action.

On 10 November, the Assembly proclaimed the year 2002 as the International Year of Mountains. On 15 December, it proclaimed the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter VIII (pp. 1001–1023)

Population and human settlements

POPULATION, 1001: Follow-up to the 1994 Conference on Population and Development, 1001; UN Population Fund, 1006; Other population activities, 1018. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 1020: Follow-up to the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), 1020; UN Centre for Human Settlements, 1022; UN Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, 1023.

At mid-1998, the estimated world population stood at 5.9 billion, having grown at a rate of 1.3 per cent over the preceding year. Over 80 per cent of the population resided in the less developed regions. According to United Nations projections, the world population would be in the range of 7.3 billion to 10.7 billion by the mid-twenty-first century depending on the assumed future fertility trends.

In 1998, UN population activities focused on a global review of the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), in preparation for the 1999 special session of the General Assembly on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action. During the year, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) carried out activities in some 155 countries and organized a number of round tables and technical symposia on major themes connected with the Programme of Action's implementation. The three core UNFPA programme areas were reproductive health, population and development strategies, and advocacy. In 1998, provisional UNFPA project expenditures totalled \$216.6 million.

The Commission on Population and Development, which served as the preparatory body for the Assembly's 1999 special session, considered follow-up actions to the ICPD recommendations and devoted its thirty-first session to the issue of health and mortality, paying special attention to gender issues and development. On the Commission's recommendation, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions on census activities and on the review and appraisal of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Assembly also adopted a resolution on implementation of the Programme of Action.

UN activities in the area of human settlements were guided by follow-up to the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). The Assembly decided that the special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II would be held in 2001. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, in an effort to build global awareness of the deterioration of the housing conditions of the poor, was in the process of establishing a campaign on secure tenure.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter IX (pp. 1024–1059)

Social policy, crime prevention and human resources development

SOCIAL POLICY AND CULTURAL ISSUES, 1024: Social aspects of development, 1024; Persons with disabilities, 1029; Cultural development, 1030. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 1031: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 1031; UN Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 1033; Transnational crime, 1038; Corruption and bribery, 1045; UN standards and norms, 1046; Other crime prevention and criminal justice issues, 1050. HUMAN RESOURCES, 1055: UN research and training institutes, 1055.

United Nations efforts to advance social, cultural and human resource development continued throughout 1998, as did the implementation of the Organization's crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

At its February session, the Commission for Social Development, in the context of the follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, considered as its priority theme "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons". It also carried out a review of UN plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups. In preparation for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in the year 2000 to review and appraise the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit, the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session held an organizational meeting in May. In November, the Assembly welcomed Switzerland's offer to convene the special session in Geneva in June 2000. Throughout the year, the UN Secretariat continued to monitor the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, which was adopted by the Assembly in 1982.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in April, discussed preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in 2000. In December, the Assembly decided that the theme of the Tenth Congress should be "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century". On the Commission's recommendation, the Assembly, also in December, adopted complementary provisions for the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. As follow-up to the 1994 Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, the Assembly established an intergovernmental committee to begin drafting an international convention against transnational organized crime.

During the year, the Assembly declared 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and addressed issues related to cultural and human resource development. On 2 February, the Assembly President made a solemn appeal in conjunction with the observance of the Olympic Truce.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter X (pp. (1060–1090)

Women

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, 1060: Implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1060. UN MACHINERY, 1085: Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1085; Commission on the Status of Women, 1087; UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), 1088; International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW), 1088.

In 1998, the United Nations continued efforts to advance the status of women and ensure their rights, particularly through implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a comprehensive plan for women's empowerment adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing). The Conference outcomes set the agenda for women's empowerment into the twenty-first century and embodied the commitment of the international community to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women.

During the year, the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to achieving full implementation of the Declaration and Platform for Action. It decided that a special session in June 2000 to assess the progress achieved in implementing the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Platform for Action, and to consider further action and initiatives, would be entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century". The Assembly also took action to protect women and ensure their rights in a variety of situations through resolutions addressing the girl child, traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls, the status of women in the UN Secretariat (see also PART FIVE, Chapter III) and the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Economic and Social Council also continued to focus on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference, particularly efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system and to implement strategic objectives related to 12 critical areas of concern contained in the Platform for Action. It decided that the theme of the high-level segment of its 1999 substantive session would be the role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women.

In 1998, the Commission on the Status of Women monitored implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, particularly at the national level and within the UN system. In addition, it adopted resolutions aimed at protecting women in particular situations, including older women, migrants and women in armed conflict. It also addressed the human rights of women related to land tenure, as well as poverty and economic development.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions, reviewed the reports of 16 States parties to the 1979 Convention.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XI (pp. 1091–1106)

Children, youth and ageing persons

CHILDREN, 1091: United Nations Children's Fund, 1091. YOUTH, 1102. AGEING PERSONS, 1104.

In 1998, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its efforts to improve the situation of children worldwide, particularly those living in poverty. UNICEF global advocacy and alliance-building efforts focused on promoting children's rights, while its programmes continued to highlight development goals established at the 1990 World Summit for Children. Programme priorities for 1998 emphasized reducing childhood death, illness and disability; reducing maternal mortality and morbidity; improving children's access to and quality of education; and protecting them from exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF joined other UN bodies in continuing to promote adherence to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (see PART TWO, Chapter I). The General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights took action during 1998 to protect the rights of children in a variety of circumstances, including meeting the needs of the girl child (see PART THREE, Chapter X) and protecting children in situations of armed conflict (see PART TWO, Chapter II). The protection of children from the impact of armed conflict was also addressed in June by the Security Council (see PART TWO, Chapter II). In November, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, proclaimed the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (see PART TWO, Chapter I).

United Nations activities concerning young people remained focused on implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which called on Governments to adopt national youth policies and a cross-sectoral approach to addressing youth's concerns. In 1998, the first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, Portugal, 8-12 August) adopted the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, which built on the 1995 Programme of Action by outlining further policy commitments for Governments. Prior to the Conference, the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Braga, Portugal, 2-7 August) adopted the Braga Youth Action Plan, which called for the empowerment of young people to enable their participation in human development.

As part of ongoing efforts to support ageing persons, the United Nations proceeded with preparations for the International Year of Older Persons (1999). The Assembly, in December, noted the launching on 1 October 1998 of the International Year, with the theme "A society for all ages", and encouraged States, UN organizations and other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the challenge of the demographic ageing of societies. The Commission for Social Development reviewed implementation of the 1982 International Plan of Action on Ageing, which dealt with areas of concern to older persons, such as health, housing, income security and social welfare.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XII (pp. 1107–1126)

Refugees and displaced persons

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, 1107: Programme policy, 1107; Financial and administrative questions, 1111. REFUGEE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE, 1113: Protection issues, 1113; Assistance measures, 1114; Regional activities, 1118.

In 1998, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted some 21.4 million persons compared to 22.4 million the previous year. Of the total, approximately 11.4 million were refugees, 5.4 million were internally displaced persons and 1.7 million were repatriated refugees. The rest comprised asylum-seekers, stateless people and various others of concern to UNHCR.

The Security Council issued a statement in September condemning attacks in conflict situations against refugees and other civilians. It also condemned the use of force against UN personnel and personnel of other organizations involved in delivering humanitarian assistance.

More than half of the refugees and persons of concern to UNHCR (6.5 million) were in Africa. African refugees accounted for more than a third of the total number of persons resettled under UNHCR auspices during the year and almost half of the active cases pending decisions by resettlement countries or slated for submission. In West Africa, the crises in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes; there were some 350,000 refugees in Guinea alone and Liberia, a country emerging from years of war, hosted almost 90,000 Sierra Leonean refugees. In Central Africa, the resurgence of fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provoked new movements of refugees and displaced persons, and made it extremely hazardous for UNHCR and other organizations to continue their operations. Some 260,000 Burundi refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania comprised the largest group of refugees in the region. At the end of the year, armed conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia led to a new spate of displacement and mass expulsions in the Horn of Africa. Some 230,000 refugees were repatriated in Rwanda during 1998, but 625,000 Rwandans remained internally displaced. On the other hand, the successful repatriation of Ethiopian refugees from the Sudan and of Somali refugees from Ethiopia indicated that some of the longstanding problems in certain parts of the region were being resolved.

Elsewhere, internal fighting continued in Afghanistan, compounded by grave violations of human rights. Although some 80,000 Afghan refugees returned home from Pakistan in spite of the unstable situation, returns from Iran were very low and reintegration activities virtually stopped. In Cambodia, sporadic violence continued to affect the peace process; consequently, some 39,000 Cambodians remained in refugee camps in Thailand. Although not linked to a conflict, a solution to the problem of some 95,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal remained elusive.

Nowhere was the relationship between conflict and displacement more evident during the year than in the Kosovo province of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), where an estimated 200,000 people were displaced. There were also 45,000 displaced in Montenegro and 20,000 refugees in Albania. UNHCR substantially increased its operational capacity in the region during the year.

The UNHCR Executive Committee, in October, considered international solidarity and burden-sharing as its annual theme, including national, regional and international responsibilities for refugees. It recognized that those issues were of direct importance to the satisfactory implementation of refugee protection principles. However, it stressed that access to asylum should not be dependent on burden-sharing arrangements first being in place, since respect for fundamental human rights and humanitarian principles was an obligation of all members of the international community.

In December, the General Assembly urged all States, in conjunction with UNHCR, to cooperate and mobilize resources with a view to reducing the burden borne by States, particularly developing countries, that had received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIII (pp. 1127–1134)

Health, food and nutrition

HEALTH, 1127. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 1130: Food aid, 1130; Food security, 1133. NUTRITION, 1133

In 1998, the United Nations continued to take action to promote human health, coordinate food aid and food security, and support research in nutrition.

A report of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) stated that a total of 33.4 million people were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 1998, which was a dramatic 10 per cent increase over 1997. There were 5.8 million new infections, nearly 16,000 every day and 11 every minute. The disease caused 2.5 million deaths in 1998, the highest number in a given year. During the year, the respective roles of the UNAIDS secretariat and the other co-sponsors became clearer and therefore strengthened the capacity of the United Nations to assist Governments and civil society to respond to HIV/AIDS. Another health concern for the United Nations was the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera. The World Health Organization, in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank, was seeking to reduce substantially the human suffering and economic losses due to malaria, not only through new tools for controlling the disease but also by strengthening the health services to affected populations.

The World Food Programme (WFP)—a joint undertaking of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations—provided food aid in 80 countries. In its new approach of focusing on longer-term food needs by introducing development activities to support humanitarian efforts, WFP reiterated its dual mandate to make the link from relief to recovery in its assistance.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XIV (pp. 1135–1173)

International drug control

TWENTIETH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1135. CONVENTIONS, 1150: International Narcotics Control Board, 1151. WORLD DRUG SITUATION, 1153. UN ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE, 1163: UN International Drug Control Programme, 1163; Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 1168; System-wide Action Plan, 1168; Global Programme of Action, 1169; Strengthening UN mechanisms, 1170.

During 1998, the United Nations, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) of the Secretariat, renewed its commitment to strengthen international cooperation and increase efforts to counter the world drug problem.

In June, the General Assembly held its twentieth special session devoted to countering the world drug problem. It adopted a Political Declaration and a Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction that introduced a balanced approach with regard to illicit demand and supply reduction and reaffirmed the need for demand reduction programmes. It also adopted measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs—the main UN policy-making body on drug control issues—acted as the preparatory body for the special session and considered the question of demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs.

UNDCP played a major role in stimulating action at the national, regional and international levels, to promote subregional cooperation and to provide States with legal and technical assistance. It strengthened its presence in key countries, supported national efforts and initiatives, giving particular attention to activities to reduce illicit cultivation of narcotic crops through alternative development, and finalized the development of a series of business plans to reduce the illicit supply and demand for drugs.

INCB continued to oversee the implementation of the three major international drug control conventions, to analyse the drug situation worldwide and to draw attention to weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance.

Part Three: Economic and social questions

Chapter XV (pp. 1174–1180)

Statistics

UN statistical bodies, 1174; Economic statistics, 1174; Social and demographic statistics, 1177; Technical cooperation, 1178; Other statistical activities, 1179.

In 1998, the United Nations continued its statistical work programme. In February, the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination reviewed, among other things, the work of five inter-agency task forces, established by the Statistical Commission, covering the subject areas of environment statistics, statistics of international trade in services, international trade statistics, finance statistics and industrial statistics; followed up on the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993; examined the Statistical Commission's structure and operation; and discussed proposals on various statistical issues.

In June, the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities considered technical and policy and coordination issues. The Statistical Commission did not meet in 1998.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter I (pp. 1183–1191)
International Court of Justice

Judicial work of the Court, 1183

In 1998, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered four Judgments and made 12 Orders. It had pending before it 13 contentious cases; however, by year's end one case was removed from the Court's list. During the year, one request for an advisory opinion was referred to the Court.

In a 27 October address to the General Assembly, the ICJ President observed that the Court was becoming increasingly integrated into the UN system of peaceful settlement of international disputes and was no longer seen only as the last resort in dispute resolution, since political and judicial approaches to settlement were mutually reinforcing. As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the Court was the most authoritative interpreter of the legal obligations of States in disputes between them; similarly, it continued to serve as the supreme interpreter of the United Nations Charter and associated instruments, including the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, which was the focus of an advisory proceeding in progress in the Court.

The President noted the significant increase in the ICJ caseload and emphasized the resulting strain on its current resources (see PART FOUR, Chapter V). He recalled the axiom that "justice delayed is justice denied" and expressed the hope that the Court would not need to delay its handling of cases for budgetary reasons.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter II (pp. 1192–1208)
International tribunals

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, 1192: The Chambers, 1192; Office of the Prosecutor, 1198; The Registry, 1199; Financing ICTY, 1199. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA, 1201: The Chambers, 1201; Office of the Prosecutor, 1205; The Registry, 1205; Financing ICTR, 1205; OIOS review, 1208.

In 1998, each of the international tribunals, created by the United Nations to prosecute persons responsible for mass violation of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda, established an additional Trial Chamber and installed three new judges in order to deal with the increased number of accused in custody. The International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (ICTY) witnessed a period of unprecedented growth and development, during which the institution demonstrated that international criminal justice was an achievable goal. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (ICTR) handed down the first judgement ever by an international court on the crime of genocide.

Part Four: Legal questions

Chapter III (pp. 1209–1224)

Legal aspects of international political relations

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, 1209. INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION, 1211: State succession, 1213; State responsibility, 1213; International liability, 1214; Unilateral acts of States, 1214. INTERNATIONAL STATE RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1214: Principles for international negotiations, 1214; Jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, 1215; Measures to eliminate terrorism, 1216; Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 1220. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 1221: Protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, 1221. TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS, 1223.

In 1998, following six years of preparatory work by the International Law Commission (ILC) and General Assembly committees, a plenipotentiary conference adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. When ratified, the Statute would establish the Court as a permanent institution with power to investigate and bring to justice individuals accused of the most serious crimes of international concern, including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. The Conference also set up a Preparatory Commission to prepare proposals for practical arrangements for the Court, including draft rules of procedure and evidence.

At its fiftieth session, ILC completed the first reading of draft articles on prevention of transboundary damage from hazardous activities and transmitted them to Governments for comment. Consideration also continued of draft articles on unilateral acts of States and on State responsibility. ILC adopted draft guidelines on reservations to treaties and established a working group to advance its work on diplomatic protection.

The Ad Hoc Committee established by the Assembly in 1996 to elaborate an international convention on the suppression of nuclear terrorism continued its work on a draft convention, focusing on the definition of material and offences to be covered under the proposed convention. It conducted a first reading of substantive provisions and the Assembly directed it to continue.

In August, the Security Council condemned terrorist attacks on the United States embassies in Nairobi (Kenya) and Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania) and called on States to cooperate in preventing such acts. The Secretary-General and the Assembly continued to work on the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter IV (pp. 1225–1232)
Law of the Sea

UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, 1225: Institutions created by the Convention, 1226;
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, 1232.

During 1998, the United Nations continued to promote the universal acceptance of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the two related Agreements. An important role belonged to the three institutions created by the Convention—the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

In September, the General Assembly approved the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationship between the United Nations and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The Tribunal was established in 1996 to settle disputes concerning the interpretation of the Convention.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter V (pp. 1233–1246)
Other legal questions

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1233: Strengthening the role of the United Nations, 1233; UN Decade of International Law, 1238; Cooperation with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, 1241; Host country relations, 1242. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, 1244: International trade law, 1244.

In 1998, the United Nations continued to work on various aspects of international law, including international economic law.

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization met in January/February and discussed proposals for the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. It invited the General Assembly to address further the implementation of Charter provisions relating to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII.

In anticipation of the end of the Decade of International Law (1990-1999), the Assembly took note of the provisional list of events for 1999, prepared by the Netherlands and the Russian Federation, marking both the end of the Decade and the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, held in 1899.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law organized a commemorative New York Convention Day to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the 1958 Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards and held a Uniform Commercial Law Information Colloquium.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country reviewed its membership and composition, and discussed travel restrictions imposed by the host country, diplomatic indebtedness and other related matters. In December, the Assembly endorsed the Committee's recommendation that its membership increase by four.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter I (pp. 1249–1269)

United Nations reform

PROGRAMME OF REFORM, 1249: General aspects, 1249; Follow-up to specific measures, 1250; Managerial reform and oversight, 1253. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY, 1260: Strengthening of the UN system, 1260; Review of Security Council membership and related matters, 1261; Revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 1262

The United Nations continued in 1998 to implement the Secretary-General's programme of reform of the Organization. Activities focused on strengthening the Secretariat's leadership capacity and reshaping its substantive work programmes, as well as increasing its administrative effectiveness and efficiency in order to create a development dividend by reducing non-programme costs and turning the savings into a development account. The General Assembly continued to consider proposals on those issues and on results-based budgeting and the dividend for development.

The Organization's process of procurement reform was reviewed. It showed that procurement reform was well under way, but areas of concern remained, notably procurement planning and the quality of vendors.

In its continued efforts to restructure and revitalize the Organization's approach to economic and social matters, the Economic and Social Council approved action to revitalize its subsidiary bodies, adopted measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its functional commissions and welcomed the reform measures carried out by the regional commissions.

The Open-ended High-level Working Group on the Question of the Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Related Matters continued to discuss, among other things, the Council's working methods, the transparency of its work, and its decision-making process, including the veto. The Assembly determined that no decision would be made on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the Council's membership and related matters without the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the Assembly membership.

The Assembly also reviewed the Organization's oversight mechanisms, including efforts towards enhanced oversight in the UN system.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions
Chapter II (pp. 1270–1298)
United Nations financing and programming

FINANCIAL SITUATION, 1270. UN BUDGET, 1272: Results-based budgeting, 1272; Budget for 1996-1997, 1274; Budget for 1998-1999, 1274; Programme budget outline for 2000-2001, 1283. CONTRIBUTIONS, 1285: Assessments, 1285. ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING, 1288: Common accounting standards, 1290. PROGRAMME PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT, 1291: Medium-term plan, 1291; Programme performance 1996-1997, 1292. UN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TRUST FUND, 1297.

The United Nations financial situation remained precarious in 1998 with unpaid assessments to the regular budget at the end of the year amounting to \$2,031 million, slightly lower than at the end of 1997. However, a record high 117 Member States paid their regular budget assessments in full. As a result, the chronic string of large deficits in regular budget cash was broken, reducing the need to cross-borrow from peacekeeping accounts. The Secretary-General said that the recent improvements were positive but small, and numerous unstable conditions held hostage the financial future of the Organization.

The General Assembly, in December, adopted revised budget appropriations of \$2.5 billion, or a net decrease of \$ 5.6 million over initial appropriations, for the 1998-1999 biennium. The Assembly also continued consideration of a revolving credit fund as a means to deal with the chronic financial crisis, net budgeting and the redirection of savings due to administrative and management efficiencies into a Development Account. It established the United Nations International Partnership Trust Fund to provide coordination and programming mechanisms for the 1997 gift valued at \$1 billion to the United Nations by Ted Turner, Co-Chairman of Time Warner Inc.

The Committee on Contributions continued its comprehensive review of the methodology for preparing the scale of assessments of Member States' contributions to the UN budget, including factors that determined States' capacity to pay, repeatedly reaffirmed as the fundamental criterion for apportioning the Organization's expenses. The Assembly requested the Committee to meet in special session early in 1999 to consider representations from Member States with respect to the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and to report to the resumed fifty-third (1999) session.

The Assembly accepted the financial reports and audited financial statements and audit opinions of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the 1996-1997 biennium. In March, it adopted proposals for improving implementation of the Board's decisions and approved an amendment to additional terms of reference governing the audit of the United Nations.

In December, the Assembly reviewed the programme performance for 1996-1997 and adopted the proposed revisions in the medium-term plan for 1998-2001.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter III (pp. 1299–1329)

United Nations staff

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, 1299: International Civil Service Commission, 1299; Remuneration issues, 1300. OTHER STAFF MATTERS, 1307: Personnel policies, 1307; UN Joint Staff Pension Fund, 1322; Travel-related matters, 1328; Administration of justice, 1328.

In 1998, the General Assembly considered issues related to the conditions of service of United Nations staff members, some arising from proposals made by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and others resulting from the Secretary-General's programme for UN reform. The Assembly amended the Staff Regulations and Rules to accommodate provisions of the new Code of Conduct for UN staff. Of major concern during the year was the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and the protection of UN personnel. In December, the Assembly condemned acts that prevented humanitarian and UN personnel from discharging their humanitarian functions, or which entailed their being subjected to threats, the use of force or physical attacks.

ICSC made recommendations to the Assembly on matters related to the conditions of service of United Nations staff, including the base/floor salary scale, scale of staff assessment, education grant and dependency allowance and established a working group to examine human resources management.

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund reported that its market value had increased to \$21.8 billion.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

Chapter IV (pp. 1330–1367)

Institutional and administrative matters

INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY, 1330: General Assembly, 1330; Security Council, 1333; Economic and Social Council, 1334. COORDINATION AND MONITORING, 1335: Institutional mechanisms, 1335; Other coordination matters, 1337. THE UN AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, 1339: Cooperation with organizations, 1339; Observer status, 1343; Participation of organizations in UN work, 1344. CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 1346. UN INFORMATION SYSTEMS, 1355. OTHER MATTERS, 1363: Common services, 1363; Outsourcing practices, 1364; Staff security, 1365; UN premises and property, 1365; International years, 1366.

A number of institutional and administrative matters were reviewed by the United Nations in 1998. The General Assembly held its fifty-third session, its resumed fifty-second session and a special session to address the issue of illegal drugs. The Assembly granted observer status to the Association of Caribbean States and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development; and transferred observer status from the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation to the International Organization of la Francophonie.

During the year, the Security Council held 116 formal meetings to deal with regional conflicts, peacekeeping operations and a wide variety of other issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Economic and Social Council held its 1998 organizational session in January, February and May and its substantive session in July, August and December. In addition to taking action on a range of issues, the Council granted consultative status in various categories to a number of non-governmental organizations.

The Committee on Conferences recommended measures to improve utilization of conference-servicing resources; reviewed cost-accounting methods for suitability in determining conference-related charges; examined new technology with a view to cost curtailment and improved efficiency; considered the establishment of subscription fees to assist in maintaining and upgrading the optical disk system; and made proposals on limiting and controlling documentation. The Economic and Social Council reviewed the need for global cooperation to ensure an effective response to the year 2000 computer challenge. Progress was reported in implementing the Integrated Management Information System.