

## Chapter VII

**Environment and human settlements**

In 2002, the United Nations and the international community continued efforts to protect the environment through legally binding instruments and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The seventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council/third Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) adopted the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, which contained recommendations for improved coherence in international environmental policy-making and on the GC/GMEF role and structure in guiding worldwide environmental efforts.

During the year, numerous UNEP activities focused on the preparations for and outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821), which adopted a Plan of Implementation containing, among other measures, proposals relating to environmental questions. In other action, UNEP presented the third report in the Global Environment Outlook series, which examined the state and management of the environment over the preceding 30 years, and continued to develop a strategy to enhance civil society engagement in its work. The UNEP Governing Council adopted guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements.

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Hague Ministerial Declaration, which endorsed a 2010 target for a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity. The 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was closed for signature on 22 May with 151 signatories. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, which stressed that, in addition to mitigation, high priority be given to adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. The combined sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer extended

the trial period of the fixed-exchange-rate mechanism for the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for a further three years.

The Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, the culminating global event of the International Year of Mountains (2002), formulated the Bishkek Mountain Platform to provide a framework for stakeholders and others to contribute to sustainable mountain development. The World Ecotourism Summit, which adopted the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism, was the highlight of the International Year of Ecotourism.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) began functioning as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly on 1 January. The transformation and reform process, completed in 2001, enabled UN-Habitat to adopt development goals and norms that would assist in implementing the 1996 Habitat Agenda, the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted at the 2001 General Assembly special session for an overall review and appraisal of the Agenda. The Committee of Permanent Representatives discussed, among other issues, proposed revisions to UN-Habitat's medium-term plan for 2002-2005, including the addition of a new subprogramme on the financing of human settlements.

The General Assembly elected Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (United Republic of Tanzania) as Executive Director of UN-Habitat for a four-year term beginning on 1 September.

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**Environment**

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**UN Environment Programme****Governing Council/Ministerial Forum**

The third Global Ministerial Environment Forum, also serving as the seventh special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was held (Cartagena, Colombia, 13-15 February 2002) [A/57/25], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 [YUN 1999, p. 975]. In ministerial consultations, it discussed the draft report of the President of the

Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) on international environmental governance [UNEP/IGM/SS] (see p. 1032) and UNEP's contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821).

The Committee of the Whole (13-15 February) considered the Executive Director's report [UNEP/GCSS.VII/4] on the implementation of the decisions of the 2001 session of GC/GMEF [YUN 2001, p. 943], focusing on the strategic approach to chemicals management (see p. 1063); compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (see p. 1042); the development of a strategy for the active engagement of civil society [YUN 2001, p. 950] (see p. 1039); the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (see p. 1054); the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (see p. 1066); implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration [YUN 2001, p. 945]; international legal instruments reflecting provisions contained in principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 670] (see p. 1037); support to Africa (see p. 1034); and UNEP's financial resources [YUN 2001, p. 952].

On 23 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Governing Council's report on its seventh special session (**decision 2002/228**).

#### *Subsidiary body*

In 2002, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which was open to representatives of all UN Member States and members of specialized agencies, held its seventy-eighth to eighty-first meetings in Nairobi on 8 March [UNEP/CPR/79/2], 2 July [UNEP/CPR/80/2], 10 September [UNEP/CPR/81/2] and 2 December [UNEP/CPR/82/2]; extraordinary meetings were convened on 22 January [UNEP/CPR/78/3] and 12 November [UNEP/CPR/81/3]. The Committee discussed, among other things, the implementation of the relevant decisions of the Governing Council's twentieth [YUN 1999, p. 971] and twenty-first [YUN 2001, p. 943] sessions and sixth special session [YUN 2000, p. 966]; the outcome of and follow-up to the seventh (2002) special session; preparations for and the outcome of the World Summit; UNEP relations with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON); and the status of the Environment Fund.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/57/532/Add.7], adopted **resolution 57/251** without vote [agenda item 87].

#### **Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 56/193 of 21 December 2001 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session,

*Having considered* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session,

*Taking into account* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

*Recalling* that in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation the General Assembly was invited to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Underlining* the unique role of the General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental decision-making body of the United Nations, in giving consideration to the issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme and, therefore, the need for a thorough analysis by Member States and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enable the General Assembly to fully consider all its implications, including legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, before making a decision,

*Reaffirming* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session, and the decisions contained therein;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance for its report as adopted by the Governing Council at its seventh special session;

3. *Recalls* the decision made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to fully implement the outcomes of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council at its seventh special session;

4. *Invites* Member States, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to submit to the Secretariat their comments on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report

incorporating those views to the General Assembly for its consideration before its sixtieth session;

5. *Reiterates its desire* to be informed of the work of the Environmental Management Group;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

7. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard and in accordance with resolution 2997(XXVII) underlines the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi.

### International environmental governance

**Report of Executive Director.** The Governing Council considered a report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VII/2] on international environmental governance—a 2001 Council initiative [YUN 2001, p. 944] aimed at a new model predicated on the need for sustainable development that met the interrelated social, economic and environmental requirements. The report described the current state of international environmental governance, reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of existing arrangements, presented information on financing for the global environment, assessed the needs of the current environmental agenda and put forward options to strengthen international environmental governance. It noted that the Summit's preparatory committee, at its organizational session [YUN 2001, p. 749], had decided that the 2002 Summit would consider the outcome of the international environmental governance process, which should be seen as an important contribution to the Summit. Similarly, it should be viewed as a contribution to the implementation of the goals of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49]. Annexed to the report was a list of questions raised on international environmental governance.

**Intergovernmental group.** In 2002, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, established in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 944], held its fifth meeting in New York on 25 January [UNEP/IGM/5/SS/3] and a final meeting in Cartagena on 12 February [A/57/25]. In Jan-

uary, the Group considered a draft report of the Governing Council President [UNEP/IGM/SS], which described the background for the development of a more effective and coherent international environmental governance regime, and the Council's initiative on international environmental governance [YUN 2001, p. 944]. The report also contained the Group's draft recommendations [ibid., p. 945]. The Group's report on its final meeting, which was appended to a Council decision [A/57/25 (dec. SS.VII/1)], summarized ideas tabled at the Group's meetings and presented recommendations for improving coherence in international environmental policy-making regarding the role and structure of GC/GMEF in promoting international cooperation, providing broad policy advice and guidance, identifying global environmental priorities and making recommendations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII) [YUN 1972, p. 331]. To that end, GC/GMEF would: keep the world environment situation under review and develop policy responses based on sound science; provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes and make cross-cutting recommendations to other bodies; promote international cooperation and recommend policies as appropriate; and strengthen the coordination and institutional requirements for international environmental policy in view of the Summit's outcome (see p. 825) and in the light of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration (see p. 1033). Further proposals regarding GC/GMEF included the universal participation of Member States and members of specialized agencies in its work; improving and strengthening its interrelationship with autonomous decision-making bodies; promoting the participation of major groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly the participation of civil society organizations from developing countries, and developing the relationship between UNEP and its governance structures, as well as among civil society, the private sector and other major groups; playing a stronger policy advisory role and strengthening UNEP's relationship with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (see p. 1039) through the Action Plan on Complementarity between GEF activities and its programme of work [YUN 1999, p. 977]; enabling ministers to concentrate on policy issues and promote international cooperation; and reviewing follow-up reports on its previous decisions. As for its agenda, GC/GMEF should take into account emerging environmental trends and consider issues related to environmental assessment and monitoring, monitoring of its previous decisions, early warning and emerging issues, based on a strength-

ened UNEP scientific capacity; further consider strengthening UNEP's scientific base by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change, including through the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change (see p. 1034); and address aspects of one or two selected sectoral issues on an annual basis. It could engage in periodic stocktaking and review synergies and linkages between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and review reports of the Environmental Management Group (EMG). The agenda would include a separate segment providing for the negotiation and adoption of the UNEP biennial programme of work and budget, and review of its implementation.

Other recommendations were aimed at strengthening UNEP's role and financial situation, improving coordination among and effectiveness of MEAs, and increasing capacity-building, technology transfer and country-level coordination for the environment pillar of sustainable development. The Group called for an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building to developing countries built on capacity-building and training, and national-level coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development. Regarding enhanced coordination across the UN system—the role of EMG—the Group stated that the functionality of EMG as envisaged in Assembly resolution 53/242 [YUN 1999, p. 975] should be realized as soon as possible; EMG should report annually to GC/GMEF; and the efficient functioning of EMG required a clear relation with intergovernmental processes, including a clearly defined reporting relationship with GC/GMEF, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and other UN system forums, as well as senior-level participation by member institutions, transparency in operations and adequate resources.

**Council action.** On 15 February [A/57/25 (dec. SS.VII/1)], the Governing Council adopted the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group and invited the Council President to transmit its decision and the Group's report to CSD acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit at its third session (see p. 824). It requested the Executive Director to present the decision and the report to the preparatory committee. The Council decided to review the implementation of the Group's recommendations at its twenty-second (2003) session, subject to the outcome of the Summit, and to consider further measures for strengthening UNEP in the light of that outcome.

A March note by the Secretary-General transmitted the Council's decision and the Group's report appended thereto to the preparatory committee [A/CONF.199/PC/3].

**Further reports of Executive Director.** In December [UNEP/GC.22/4], UNEP's Executive Director reported on actions taken or proposed on international environmental governance in the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 and the recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group (see above) in the light of the Summit's Plan of Implementation (see p. 821). Issues covered in the report included universal membership of GC/GMEF (see below); strengthening UNEP's scientific base and the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change (see p. 1034); enhancing civil society engagement (see p. 1039); strengthening UNEP financing; improving coordination among and effectiveness of MEAs; an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building; and enhanced coordination across the UN system and EMG.

A further report of the Executive Director, also issued in December [UNEP/GC.22/4/Add.2], stated that in follow-up to decision SS.VII/1, the Summit's Plan of Implementation stressed that the international community should implement the outcomes of the decision and invited the General Assembly to consider the establishment of universal membership of GC/GMEF. The Assembly in resolution 57/251 (see p. 1031) asked Member States, the Governing Council and relevant entities of the UN system to submit comments thereon. In response to the Assembly's resolution, the Executive Director would undertake the consultative process called for. The Executive Director stated that, as a first step in the consultative process, GC/GMEF had before it a December note [UNEP/GC.22/INF/36] by him, containing an issue paper prepared by the UNEP secretariat in consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs and other relevant UN offices, which defined universal membership as open to all Member States and members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

#### **Malmö Ministerial Declaration**

The Malmö Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the Governing Council in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 968], identified the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century, as well as ways for the international community to address them.

Pursuant to a 2001 Council decision [YUN 2001, p. 945], the Executive Director reported on the Declaration's implementation [UNEP/GCSS.VII/4], highlighting UNEP activities in areas underscored by the Declaration, including improving



the knowledge base through environmental assessment and early warning, environmental indicators and access to environmental information, developing environmental law, integrating environmental dimensions into economic policies, promoting environmental accountability and engaging civil society to address the root causes of environmental degradation. In a December report [UNEP/GC.22/3], the Executive Director provided information on further developments in the areas of environmental law; economics, trade and the environment; enhancing civil society engagement; engaging and involving young people in UNEP's work; and strengthening the engagement of business and industry.

#### **UNEP activities**

In November [UNEP/GC.22/2], the Executive Director reported on UNEP activities, as defined by the Governing Council in a 1998 decision [YUN 1998, p. 982], including environmental assessment and information, the development and implementation of environmental policy instruments, and support to Africa. The report highlighted UNEP involvement in the issues for consideration by CSD at future sessions.

#### *Monitoring and assessment*

In November [UNEP/GC.22/4/Add.1], pursuant to Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 (see p. 1033), the Executive Director reported on proposals to strengthen UNEP's scientific base by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change, including through the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on the subject. The proposed intergovernmental panel would improve the policy- and decision-making functions of GC/GMEF through the establishment of regular channels for collaboration between scientists and policy makers, and, as a GC/GMEF subsidiary organ, it would provide GC/GMEF with scientific and technical advice. The panel would help meet the need for a coherent approach to global environmental change and its implications for social and economic development. The report outlined the composition, functions and responsibilities of the panel and made suggestions on working modalities and the panel's work plan. It discussed links and cooperation between the panel and other assessments and agencies. Total estimated annual costs related to the panel's establishment and operation ranged from \$1.95 million to \$3.9 million, depending on the number of annual assessment reports issued and languages used. UNEP would also improve its capacity for scientific assessments by strengthening the integrated assess-

ment process, including early warning. The enhanced assessment framework would comprise the intergovernmental panel, the participatory Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process, thematic scientific and technical assessments, improved cooperation with the scientific community, monitoring and data gathering. Stronger support for the framework would be provided by a multilevel network of environmental information-gathering partners, including GEO collaborating centres, umbrella scientific bodies and monitoring and observation systems. UNEP proposed to meet its monitoring and assessment responsibilities regarding environmental change through integrated environmental assessments, thematic assessments and early warning. In line with the Summit's Plan of Implementation (see p. 821), an important dimension of the assessment framework implementation was a strengthened regional focus, including, as its main components, capacity-building, technology transfer and partnerships for data, information and knowledge management.

In a December report [UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.7], the Executive Director summarized UNEP's post-conflict environmental assessment activities, including those of UNEP's Post-Conflict Assessment Unit. Current activities included a humanitarian clean-up project at environmental hot spots in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in areas where the conflict in 1999 caused serious environmental problems and health risks to the local population; a strategic environmental assessment of Afghanistan to analyse the environmental situation and recommend improvement projects; a desk study on the state of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (see p. 1066); a depleted uranium assessment in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2002-2003); a Persian Gulf region environmental database providing services for the United Nations Compensation Commission and used by the Panel of Commissioners for the environmental claims resulting from the hostilities in the Gulf region [YUN 1990, p. 189] to analyse and evaluate ongoing monitoring and assessment projects; and the development of a feasibility study on the clean-up of the Sharra landfill in Albania.

#### *Support to Africa*

In an October report [UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.4], the Executive Director described UNEP activities in support of Africa for the implementation of MEAs and participation in international forums. Regarding support to regional agreements, UNEP endeavoured to mobilize the political will of Governments to revitalize the 1981 Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Develop-

ment of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region [YUN 1981, p. 833]; the sixth Conference of the Parties (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 16-17 May) took decisions thereon and UNEP developed a funding mechanism and a coordination system. Further support was directed towards the African preparatory process for the Summit, the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Kampala, Uganda, 1-5 July), including an assessment report presented thereto entitled the African Environment Outlook Report, and a draft review of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources [UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/4/Add.3], as well as towards the areas of cleaner production and sustainable consumption patterns, environmental conservation, UNEP/GEF activities and sub-regional organizations. Initiatives supported included the development of an action plan for the environmental component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) [UNEP/GEF/MSP/NEPAD/SC.3/2] (see below) and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa [YUN 1996, p. 832].

In 2002, the UNEP/GEF portfolio in Africa included 87 ongoing activities involving 48 countries, with a total value of \$86 million, including \$50 million in GEF resources. During the year, 24 UNEP/GEF-assisted initiatives devoted exclusively to Africa were approved, with total funding of \$18 million, including \$8 million in GEF resources. Additional resources were approved for UNEP/GEF support to the environment component of NEPAD.

#### *Water policy and strategy*

A November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/21] provided information on the evolution of intergovernmental processes leading to the Summit (see p. 823) in relation to water and on the implementation of a 2001 Governing Council decision on UNEP's water policy and strategy [YUN 2001, p. 947], which called for a review of the water policy and strategy in 2003. UNEP had supported a series of subregional and regional preparatory meetings to identify accomplishments, shortcomings and emerging issues relating to chapters 17 (protection of marine resources) and 18 (protection of freshwater resources) of Agenda 21, a global plan of action for sustainable development [YUN 1992, p. 672], adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) [ibid., p. 670]. The note discussed progress in assessing and managing global water resources; and coordination, partnerships and mobilizing actions, including regional implementation of the water

policy and strategy, and international cooperation and coordination.

In a December report [UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.3], the Executive Director proposed policy options from a UNEP perspective to strengthen the implementation of the water policy and strategy, in preparation for the review in 2003.

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/35] on measures for strengthening the freshwater component of the water policy and strategy outlined UNEP's proposals for addressing the environmental aspects of freshwater resource management and the challenges in addressing water-related environmental problems. It discussed UNEP water assessment activities; the impact of social and economic activities on freshwater resources; the need for rapid river-basin assessments; and the need for information and data on the water requirements of aquatic ecosystems and an understanding of their value to humans. Key issues in strengthening the water policy and strategy included integrated freshwater management; assessments and management linkages; the development of freshwater management plans emphasizing drainage basins; international/regional cooperation and agreements on the management of transboundary freshwater resources; regional cooperation regarding freshwater, coastal and marine environments; integrated freshwater-coastal area management; sustainable groundwater resources; best practices; technology development and transfer; economic instruments; the dialogue on dams for development; UNEP's early warning and vulnerability assessments; and public awareness and education. The note also covered inter-agency collaboration, cooperation and partnerships.

#### *The atmosphere*

In a November note [UNEP/GC.22/INF/26], the Executive Director provided information on UNEP activities in the area of adaptation to climate change, particularly in response to the Summit's Plan of Implementation (see p. 821). UNEP initiated the Assessment of Impacts of and Adaptation to Climate Change (AIACC), a global project supporting 24 research activities, with more than 100 scientists from over 50 developing countries participating. AIACC held training workshops and courses during the year.

A UNEP-sponsored report entitled *Asian Brown Cloud: Climate and Other Environmental Impacts*, which was annexed to a December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/32], highlighted the potential economic and health effects of the vast haze cloud that periodically gathered over South Asia. It stated that the blanket of pol-

lution caused by forest fires, inefficient cookers and the burning of fossil fuels was affecting regional weather patterns, including the monsoon on which many people in Asia depended.

Environment ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in June, signed an agreement on transboundary haze pollution. The agreement, drafted with UNEP assistance, addressed policy and technical matters related to air pollution.

UNEP was pursuing a number of strategies to promote the use of clean and renewable energy in the developing world and in developed countries, and was working with China, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam on a three-year project on greenhouse gas emission reduction in Asia and the Pacific.

During the year, UNEP, the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Energy and the Environment and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) jointly published "A Guide to Emissions Trading". Emissions Trading, a market-based instrument, had been adopted as a primary tool for international cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol (see p. 1042). It allowed sources to determine flexibly how and where to meet an overall limit on the amount of emissions.

### Environment and sustainable development

**World Summit.** The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September) (see p. 821) carried out a 10-year review of progress achieved in implementing Agenda 21, a global plan of action for sustainable development [YUN 1992, p. 672]. In a discussion paper on UNEP's contribution to the Summit preparations [UNEP/GCSS.VII/3 & Corr.1], the Executive Director presented highlights of UNEP's activities regarding Agenda 21 and other UNCED outcomes, as well as key issues and challenges concerning the environmental dimension of sustainable development. In a February policy statement [UNEP/GCSS.VII/5], the Executive Director said that in dealing with key sectoral environmental issues—water, energy, desertification and biodiversity—cross-cutting issues such as health, poverty, food security, urbanization, globalization and diversity needed to be considered as criteria for implementation. Also in February [UNEP/GCSS.VII/INF/10], the Executive Director distributed a paper of the Chairman on the second (2002) session of the Summit preparatory committee (see p. 824), as well as proposals for partnerships/initiatives to strengthen implementation of Agenda 21. By a March note of

the Secretariat [A/CONF.199/PC/9], GC/GMEF submitted Governing Council decision SS.VII/2 (see below) to the committee as a contribution to the Summit.

During the Summit, a 3 September High-level Round Table on Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity for Sustainable Development [UNEP/GC.22/INF/16], convened jointly by UNEP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, proposed, among other things, the adoption of a convention on cultural diversity and adding cultural diversity as a fourth pillar for achieving sustainable development, in addition to the environmental, economic and social pillars.

A major outcome of the Summit was the adoption of its Plan of Implementation [A/CONF.199/20 & Corr.1], in which participants reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 670], the full implementation of Agenda 21 [ibid., p. 672] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 [YUN 1997, p. 792]. The Plan outlined action to achieve Summit goals, including measures to promote sustainable consumption and production and the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste; protect the marine environment; stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere; reduce air pollution; combat desertification and address its causes and land degradation; reduce the loss of biological diversity; and achieve sustainable forest management.

(For more information on the World Summit and its outcomes, see p. 821.)

**Governing Council action.** On 15 February [A/57/25 (dec. SS.VII/2)], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to transmit his report and policy statement to CSD acting as the Summit's preparatory committee at its third session (see p. 824) as part of UNEP's contribution to the World Summit; further contribute to the preparatory process and take appropriate action within UNEP's mandate in the follow-up to the outcome of the Summit; and report to the Council in 2003. It also asked the Council President to transmit its current decision and his statement appended thereto to the committee.

**WEHAB initiative.** An initiative proposed by the Secretary-General as a contribution to Summit preparations focused on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB), areas that were integral to a coherent international approach to sustainable development. The Plan of Implementation proposed the launch of a programme of action on safe water to halve, by the year 2015, both the proportion of people who were unable to reach or to afford safe

drinking water and, as outlined in the Millennium Declaration, adopted in General Assembly resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation. In that regard, the Executive Director, in November [UNEP/GC.22/INF/28], identified water and sanitation challenges and presented specific actions under the WEHAB framework for action on water and sanitation. UNEP had reviewed and adjusted its programme of work to improve alignment between UNEP activities, WEHAB recommendations and the Summit's goals and targets.

Within the context of WEHAB, a December note of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/33] discussed environmental threats to human health and UNEP-related activities, including access to a safe and clean supply of water and adequate sanitation facilities, health problems resulting from climate changes and a project on improved health outcomes through community-based ecosystem management: building capacity and creating local knowledge in community health and sustainable development.

**General Assembly action.** On 20 December (decision 57/546), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee on environment and sustainable development [A/57/532].

(For further information on WEHAB within the context of the Millennium Declaration, see p. 821.)

### **Policy and advisory services**

#### *Economics, trade and financial services*

A November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/29] described UNEP's activities in the areas of economics, trade and financial services, which covered capacity-building; assisting countries in the development and application of assessment and incentive tools; building synergies between MEAs and the World Trade Organization (WTO); assisting countries to develop and apply economic instruments; reducing environmentally harmful subsidies, particularly in the fisheries and energy sectors; enhancing regional activities; and addressing the linkage between poverty, environment and globalization. Through its Finance Initiative partnerships, UNEP worked closely with banks and insurance companies to promote environmentally sound and sustainability-oriented practices in the operations of those institutions, as well as awareness and understanding of the benefits of such considerations. UNEP also continued to build on partnerships developed with WTO, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), UNCTAD, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, financial institutions and national, regional and subregional organizations.

#### *Institution-building*

In accordance with a 2001 Governing Council decision [YUN 2001, p. 948] on the provision of policy and advisory services in key areas of capacity- and institution-building, including access to information regarding legislation, regulations, activities, policies and programmes, and public participation, the UNEP secretariat presented a February report [UNEP/GCSS.VII/INF/7] on international legal instruments reflecting provisions contained in principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 670] relating to public awareness and access to information held by public authorities, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. The report, based on a study of existing international legal instruments adopted before and after UNCED, assessed and evaluated the extent to which global environmental conventions, regional agreements and non-binding instruments reflected principle 10 provisions. It found that an extensive number of legal instruments set out provisions that reflected one or more of the principle 10 elements. Public awareness and access to information was the most widespread reflection of the principle, with public participation in decision-making also contained in a large number of instruments. Access to judicial and administrative proceedings was reflected to a lesser extent.

#### **Coordination and cooperation**

##### *Business and industry*

In a January note [UNEP/GCSS.VII/INF/4], the Executive Director presented an overview of progress made to facilitate reporting back by business and industry to the Summit (see p. 824) on their implementation of Agenda 21. In response to a request made at the first (2000) session of the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum [YUN 2000, p. 966], UNEP, in cooperation with the CSD secretariat, had begun a process for a self-evaluation of progress and remaining challenges by various industry sectors, which was also being submitted to stakeholders for comment and improved dialogue. The note discussed the reporting process, including its strengths and weaknesses, and assessed progress achieved.

At the global level, the reports showed a higher awareness of environmental issues and sustainability, along with the development and applica-



tion of new management tools, such as environmental management standards and the related International Standards Organization 14000 and Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, as well as reporting. Increased awareness and improvements in the application of management tools and strengthened regulatory frameworks had resulted in reduced emissions, improved resource efficiency and cleaner production. Areas of progress at the regional level were also highlighted. Remaining challenges included addressing problems resulting from past practices; changing industry production processes and products; ensuring integration among industry sectors; and developing innovative financing by the private sector and public-private sector partnerships.

The Executive Director concluded that practices needed to be expanded globally; a number of sectors that had started to develop sustainability approaches needed to become more proactive; a standard reporting format and indicators should be used to measure progress and ensure transparency and dialogue; innovative financing mechanisms had to be developed to bring together public and private sector resources to ensure access to energy and water and to expand access to and use of sustainable technologies; voluntary private sector initiatives could complement regulatory approaches and economic instruments; consumption patterns needed to be addressed to correct consumer demand; and business and industry had to be involved in demand management for sustainability. UNEP published a compilation of executive summaries of the 22 reports as an input to the Summit, and a report entitled "10 years after Rio: the UNEP assessment", which documented industry's progress, unfinished business and future challenges in implementing Agenda 21.

A December report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/3] contained information on UNEP's efforts to strengthen the engagement of business and industry, building on a request contained in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 968] for a greater commitment by the private sector to engender a new culture of environmental accountability. UNEP continued to work with associations and groups of companies on a sectoral basis. The UNEP International Code for the Safe Management of Cyanide in Gold Mining was issued in March and a joint UNEP/World Bank/IMF publication on financing sustainable development was launched in August. In November, the Tour Operators' Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development completed a sector supplement for use with the Global Reporting Initiative 2002 sustainability reporting guidelines. Acting as guardian of environmental prin-

ciples under the Global Compact, launched in 2000 to engage the business community in advancing basic values in human rights, labour and the environment [YUN 2000, p. 989], UNEP continued to work closely with the Secretary-General's Global Compact office and UN agencies to develop the Compact in cooperation with representatives of business and industry, labour and the NGO community. The Global Reporting Initiative, a multi-stakeholder process to develop and disseminate globally applicable sustainability reporting guidelines, was launched in New York in April. UNEP was working with international organizations and industry partners on finding ways to engage major global enterprises in partnerships with small entrepreneurs to support the development of sustainable entrepreneurship.

#### *Environment and human settlements*

A January report [UNEP/GC.22/INF/11/Rev.1], prepared jointly by the secretariats of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and UNEP, highlighted cooperation between the two organizations in the assessment of environmental conditions in human settlements; environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of rural and urban settlements; environmentally sound and appropriate human settlements technology; and research, training and the dissemination of information on environmentally sound human settlements planning and management. The report also covered cooperation in UN system-wide efforts and prospects for future cooperation.

#### *Environmental emergencies*

In response to a 2001 Governing Council decision [YUN 2001, p. 949], the Executive Director submitted a November note [UNEP/GC.22/INF/5] on the further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation, based on a review of documentation and of UNEP files, particularly those of the joint UNEP/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Environment Unit concerning responses to past environmental emergencies, interviews with key personnel involved in the response efforts and input from countries affected by those events. Despite efforts to improve prevention and preparedness, environmental emergencies continued to occur because of high rates of population growth and urbanization; a lack or poor enforcement of environmental legislation and arrangements for effective environmental emergency management; Earth's weakening defences against environmental emergencies; deficient or absent

early warning, preparedness and response systems, particularly in developing and least developed countries; and rapid industrialization with increased use of chemicals. To support the World Summit's Plan of Implementation in the area of disaster and vulnerability reduction, UNEP and OCHA launched the Partnership on an Integrated Approach to Prevention, Preparedness for and Response to Environmental Emergencies in Support of Sustainable Development to promote integration of environmental emergency preparedness and response activities into strategies and assistance programmes relevant to sustainable development; assist countries in developing their own capabilities to deal with environmental emergencies; and improve dialogue between public authorities, the private sector and the public on emergency prevention, preparedness and response. The report contained policy recommendations for UNEP and national Governments, and suggested that UNEP should focus its future work in environmental emergencies on increased visibility for environmental issues and addressing the full safety continuum to prevent and mitigate adverse consequences of environmental emergencies.

During the year, the joint UNEP/OCHA Unit coordinated responses to the environmental aspects of emergencies resulting from a volcano eruption in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a munitions dump explosion in Nigeria, a port chemical spill in Djibouti, a peat and wildland fire in Viet Nam, a dam collapse in the Syrian Arab Republic and floods in Bolivia.

#### *Global Environment Facility*

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), a joint programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the World Bank, was established in 1991 [YUN 1991, p. 505] to help solve global environmental problems. It was the designated financial mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1044), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see p. 1042) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (see p. 1064).

In 2002, UNEP was supporting 90 national capacity-building programmes related to biodiversity, climate change, POPs and needs assessment for global environmental management through GEF enabling activities; another 114, related to biosafety, were supported through UNEP's global biosafety programme (see p. 1045). Since its inception, the overall UNEP/GEF work programme had been financed to \$558 million, including \$300 million in GEF resources, and involved activities in 144 countries directly.

Seventy-six new UNEP/GEF initiatives were approved in 2002, with funding of \$115 million, including \$54 million in GEF grant financing.

The second GEF Assembly (Beijing, China, 16-18 October) [DP/2003/11] welcomed the third GEF replenishment of \$2.9 billion over the period 2003-2006, which was agreed to in August by 32 donor Governments meeting in Washington, D.C. The GEF Assembly also adopted the Beijing Declaration, by which it agreed on measures to further strengthen GEF to respond to its evolving challenges, including the addition of the two new focus areas of land degradation and POPs.

Annexed to a November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/10] was a list of 105 projects approved under GEF between February 2001 and 31 October 2002, financed in the amount of \$192 million. Also annexed was a table providing the status of UNEP/GEF activities as at 31 October 2002, valued at \$544 million.

**UNDP action.** A report on UNDP activities financed by GEF and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (see p. 1043) [DP/2002/4] stated that the cumulative UNDP-GEF portfolio for 1991-2001 amounted to \$1.2 billion, with a further \$2 billion secured in co-financing, representing 34 per cent of the total GEF allocation. A revision of GEF's institutional architecture was under consideration and, given the positive achievements, UNDP preferred to maintain the current institutional arrangement.

On 5 February [E/2002/35 (dec. 2002/4)], the Executive Board of UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) took note of the report.

#### *Memorandum of understanding*

In 2002 [UNEP/GC.22/INF/6], UNEP signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Compensation Commission, established by Security Council resolution 687(1991) [YUN 1991, p. 172], aimed at facilitating the tracking of 69 environmental monitoring and assessment projects in five countries in the Persian Gulf region.

#### *Participation of civil society*

On 15 February [A/57/25 (dec. SS.VII/5)], the UNEP Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue to convene a regionally balanced and representative civil society forum in conjunction with GC/GMEF meetings. He was requested to further develop the strategy for engaging civil society [YUN 2001, p. 950] in UNEP's programme of activities, which should provide clear direction to the secretariat to ensure that all programmes took into account opportunities for multi-stakeholder participation in design, implementation, monitoring of activities and dissemi-

nation of outputs. He was also requested to review the practices of civil society engagement in other UN agencies and precise modalities of such engagement, including the involvement of the private sector in UNEP's work to achieve constructive partnership with the business community; that involvement should be further discussed, developed and formulated in consultation with civil society representatives and under the guidance of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Governing Council agreed to consider the views of representatives of major groups and NGOs, including the private sector. It decided to establish the Committee of Permanent Representatives as a working party to examine the amendment of rule 69 of the Governing Council's rules of procedure regarding NGO participation in Council meetings and to report thereon in 2003. The Executive Director was also requested to report in 2003 on progress made in enhancing civil society engagement in UNEP's work.

Pursuant to the Council's decision (see above), a November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/13] contained a revised strategy paper on enhancing civil society engagement in UNEP's work, which identified the strategy objectives for UNEP—to seek greater collaboration with civil society in fulfilling its mandate to respond to global environmental concerns; and for civil society—to effectively network with other groups, build internal capacity through raising awareness of UNEP's activities at national, regional and international levels. It described the three pillars of the proposed strategy: strengthening institutional relations through information management and a decentralized approach; modalities of civil society input at the policy level; and civil society engagement in programme design and implementation. Strategic approaches to implementation of the strategy, which was envisioned to take place over a three- to four-year period, included a medium-term plan and the development of burden-sharing mechanisms between the various actors.

In a November addendum to the note [UNEP/GC.22/INF/13/Add.1], the Executive Director reviewed the practices of civil society engagement in UN organizations.

#### *Involvement of youth*

Pursuant to a 2001 Governing Council decision [YUN 2001, p. 950], the Executive Director, in a December report [UNEP/GC.22/3/Add.1/Rev.1], presented a long-term strategy on the engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues. The UNEP strategy, a six-year plan to create a global movement in which children

and youth worldwide would actively participate in environmental activities, sought to enhance, inspire and enable their involvement in sustainable development and to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens. The strategy would consolidate all UNEP activities for children and youth into a unified global network called "Tunza" (meaning to treat with care or affection in Kiswahili, a subregional language in Eastern Africa). The Tunza network would enhance current activities and introduce new ones into a unified approach. Key focus areas for activities would include awareness-building, youth in decision-making processes, capacity-building and information exchange. Through Tunza, UNEP would strengthen and forge new links with relevant UN agencies and departments to ensure wider participation of young people in environmental issues, continue to work with civil society and private sector partners, and intensify its activities with young people through its regional offices. The strategy would be coordinated and implemented at UNEP headquarters (Nairobi, Kenya), in close collaboration with regional offices. Annexed to the report was a detailed breakdown of required resources, indicating a total estimated cost of \$2.4 million, including resources from the Environment Fund and contributions by Governments (\$895,000), as well as funds raised from the private sector (\$1.6 million). The report recommended the creation of a Tunza trust fund.

The UNEP 2002 Global Youth Forum was held near Aarhus, Denmark, from 26 to 29 March, as part of the Youth for Sustainable Development process launched in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 951], which was intended to facilitate and support youth involvement in the World Summit (see p. 822).

#### **Environmental data and information**

A November report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/7] contained information on the phasing out of the Mercure satellite communications system, which was designed by the European Space Agency in response to an Agenda 21 call to utilize modern electronic telecommunications to improve access to, and the exchange of, environmental data and information for responsible decision-making. In connection with the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the UN presence in Nairobi, UNON was approached by two UN Secretariat departments charged with providing telecommunications services to UN operations worldwide with a proposal to expand the capacity provided in Nairobi under the UN telecommunications network (UN-net) through a new satellite connection to be established through Brindisi, Italy. The proposed additional capacity

for UN-net would provide services similar to those of Mercure for 40 per cent of the annual fixed cost, and for 65 per cent on average of the per-minute telephony charges of Mercure. In January, the Executive Director approved the expansion of UN-net in Nairobi and the phasing out of Mercure. The transition from Mercure to UN-net was completed in June. The telecommunications needs of all UN bodies and agencies in Nairobi were then met by services rendered on a cost-recovery basis by UNON, using the UN-net facilities.

The UNEPnet operation (Internet mechanisms for environmental information access and exchange) continued to be an integral part of UNEP's broader environmental information service and was guided by the assessment and early warning subprogramme strategy.

### Global Environment Outlook

In May, UNEP presented the third report in the Global Environment Outlook series (GEO-3), which examined the state and management of the environment since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment [YUN 1972, p. 317], the first conference to consider ways of sustaining human needs from an environment increasingly threatened by human activity.

GEO-3 found that, although action for the environment had increased considerably since 1972, the current situation gave great cause for concern, and that implementation of the 1992 UNCED proposals [YUN 1992, p. 670], set out in Agenda 21 [ibid., p. 672], had been disappointing. The report also outlined possible policy approaches for the next three decades, which envisioned a future driven by market forces, policy initiatives, security concerns and sustainability.

A January discussion paper [UNEP/GCSS.VII/INF/3/Add.1] stated that GEO-3 would constitute a major input from UNEP into the upcoming World Summit and its preparatory process (see p. 821). The paper gave an overview of issues highlighted in GEO-3, including social and policy issues, policy implementation, and increasing environmental information, awareness and capacity. It proposed actions to be taken by national and local policy makers, the international community, and civil society and other stakeholders to address poverty and ensure sustainable development and a healthy environment for all.

### UNEP secretariat

#### *OIOS audit and inspection activities*

In October, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the eighth annual Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) report

[A/57/451], which included UNEP audit information and covered activities during the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. An audit of UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions disclosed that the Division's mandate had not been fully translated into a clear action plan. OIOS recommended that UNEP and the other convention secretariats develop a framework and plan for programmatic support and improved coordination, and that each party's roles and responsibilities with regard to the provision of administrative services be clarified. UNEP accepted and was implementing all the OIOS recommendations.

Regarding the 1999 follow-up review of UNEP [YUN 2000, p. 971], OIOS determined that 8 of the 11 recommendations issued as a result of the review had been fully implemented, including a recommendation for the establishment of service-level agreements between UNEP and UNON. The remaining three recommendations were in progress.

On 20 December, the General Assembly took note of the 2001 OIOS report on its inspection of UNON administrative and management practices [YUN 2001, p. 1396] (**resolution 57/287 A**) (see also p. 1360).

### Environment Fund

#### *Financial reserve loan*

In line with a 2001 Governing Council decision authorizing the Executive Director to approve an advance of up to \$8 million from the Environment Fund reserve to the UN Secretariat on a loan basis for the construction of additional office accommodation at UNON [YUN 2001, p. 953], the Executive Director ensured that the agreement between UNEP and the Secretariat, signed in July, included provisions that the \$8 million advance, including the interest that the Fund would have earned on that amount, would be repaid to UNEP through the remission of future rent for all offices of UN funds, programmes and agencies located at the UN complex in Nairobi; that the amount of the advance would cover only part of the construction costs, with the remainder financed from the UN regular budget against income from rent at the Nairobi complex; that the rate of interest for the initial 12 months would be fixed at 6 per cent and thereafter adjusted annually; and that the loan would be subject to repayment should the Executive Director so request. On 12 November, the Executive Director informed the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the remittance of the first tranche of the loan, amounting to \$1.4 million for the pre-construction phase, and confirmed that UN



Headquarters had issued the allotment and was expediting the request for proposals for the detailed cost plan, consultancy services and project supervision.

### International conventions and mechanisms

#### MEAs

During its seventh special session, the Governing Council considered draft guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), developed by a UNEP intergovernmental working group of experts in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 954], which were annexed to a note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VII/4/Add.2]. On 15 February [A/57/25 (dec. SS.VII/4)], the Council adopted the draft guidelines and requested the Executive Director to disseminate them to Governments, convention secretariats and relevant international organizations; take measures, through UNEP's programme of work and in close collaboration with other international organizations, to facilitate the implementation of the guidelines; take steps to advance capacity-building and strengthening of developing countries, particularly least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidelines; and report in 2004. To facilitate implementation of the guidelines, the Executive Director was invited to seek additional extrabudgetary resources, and Governments in a position to do so were urged to make such resources available.

A November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/14] contained information on UNEP's activities in enhancing interlinkages and synergies between MEAs.

#### Climate change convention

As at 31 December, 187 States and the European Community (EC) were parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was opened for signature in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 681] and entered into force in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 938]. During the year, Afghanistan and Liberia ratified the Convention.

At year's end, 100 States and the EC were parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention [YUN 1997, p. 1048]. During the year, 33 States ratified the Protocol, two accepted it, 16 acceded to it and three States and the EC approved it.

#### Conference of Parties

The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (New Delhi, India, 23 October–

1 November) [FCCC/CP/2002/7 & Add.1-3] adopted the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, which stressed that, in addition to mitigation, high priority must be given to adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. The Declaration also promoted the use of less polluting energy and other innovative technologies and urged Governments to promote technological advances through research and development, to substantially increase renewable energy resources and to promote the transfer of technologies that could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in major economic sectors, including through public sector and market-oriented approaches. It called for the timely ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and for national sustainable development strategies to integrate climate change objectives more fully and build on the Summit's outcomes (see p. 825).

The Conference also adopted decisions on the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action; the development and transfer of technologies; the New Delhi work programme on article 6 of the Convention relating to education, training and public awareness; efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and safeguard the global climate system; cooperation with other conventions; pilot phase activities implemented jointly by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI); guidelines for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories; technical standards for data exchange between registry systems; and progress under the Kyoto Protocol. Regarding national communications from parties to the Convention, the Conference adopted decisions on the fourth compilation and synthesis of initial communications from parties not included in annex I (developing countries) to the Convention and on the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from those parties, and guidelines for their preparation. Further decisions dealt with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention and its Special Climate Change and Least Developed Countries Funds [YUN 2001, p. 954] (see below) and other administrative and budgetary questions.

In other action, the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM) was made fully operational and, in August, its Executive Board issued its first annual report [FCCC/CP/2002/3 & Add.1], covering the period from 10 November 2001 to 2 August 2002. CDM would channel private sector investment into emission-reduction projects in developing countries, thereby promoting sustainable development in those countries while offering industrialized Governments

credits against their Kyoto targets. At its eighth session, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision providing guidance to CDM's Executive Board. The Conference also endorsed SBI conclusions (see below) on GEF's September report to the Conference [FCCC/CP/2002/4].

The sixteenth sessions of SBSTA (5-14 June) [FCCC/SBSTA/2002/6] and SBI (10-14 June) [FCCC/SBI/2002/6] were held in Bonn, Germany. The seventeenth sessions of SBSTA (23-29 October) [FCCC/SBSTA/2002/13] and SBI (23 October-1 November) [FCCC/SBI/2002/17] were held in New Delhi.

**Note by Secretary-General.** Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/199 [YUN 2001, p. 955], the Secretary-General, in August [A/57/359], transmitted a report of the UNFCCC Executive Secretary on the outcome of the seventh (2001) session of the Conference of the Parties [YUN 2001, p. 955].

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/57/532/Add.3], adopted **resolution 57/257** without vote [agenda item 87 (c)].

#### Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolution 56/199 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

*Noting* that most States and one regional economic integration organization have acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

*Recalling* the provisions of the Convention, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

*Taking into account* the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

*Noting* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted ninety-seven ratifications,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implemen-

tation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of India for hosting the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change strongly urge the States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Takes note* of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session;

4. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

5. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report in a timely manner to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

Also on 20 December, the Assembly stressed that the World Climate Change Conference in 2003 would support the UNFCCC process (**resolution 57/258**) (see p. 1050).

#### Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

As at 31 December, 184 States and the EC were parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804],

which entered into force in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 810]. In 2002, Guinea-Bissau acceded to the Convention.

Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which was adopted in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 686], numbered 183 States and the EC; to the 1990 Amendment to the Protocol, 163 and the EC; to the 1992 Amendment, 143 and the EC; to the 1997 Amendment, 88 and the EC; and to the 1999 Amendment, 44 and the EC (see below).

The combined sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Fourteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (Rome, 25-29 November) [UNEP/OzL.Pro.14/9] adopted a budget of \$573 million for the period 2003-2005 and extended for a further trial period of three years the fixed-exchange-rate mechanism for the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund. It adopted decisions on measures to complete the transition from chlorofluorocarbon metered-dose inhalers; the status of destruction technologies of ozone-depleting substances (ODS); illegal trade in ODS; use of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals that depleted the ozone layer; the relationship between efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and efforts to safeguard the global climate system; the relationship between the Protocol and WTO; and compliance issues.

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention [UNEP/OzL.Conv.6/7] noted the entry into force on 25 February of the 1999 Beijing Amendment [YUN 1999, p. 986] and urged all States that had not done so to ratify, approve or accede to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments. It requested UNEP, in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization, to establish an extrabudgetary fund for receiving voluntary contributions from the parties to the Convention to finance activities on ozone-related monitoring and research activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and decided to hold its seventh meeting in 2005 in conjunction with the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

In April, UNEP's Ozone Secretariat published a report entitled "Production and Consumption of Ozone" Depleting Substances under the Montreal Protocol, 1986-2000", which included data reported by 167 parties to the Protocol. The report was the second edition of a report issued in 1997.

**UNDP action.** A report on UNDP activities financed by GEF and the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol [DP/2002/4], of which UNDP

was one of four implementing agencies (UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, World Bank), stated that in view of a revision of the institutional architecture of GEF, UNDP, given the positive achievements, would prefer to maintain the current institutional arrangement. Given an expanded GEF mandate to serve as the financial mechanism for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (see p. 1045) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (see p. 1064), UNDP hoped that the 2003-2006 GEF replenishment would be \$2.5 billion to \$3.5 billion. Referring to the three-year replenishment of the Multilateral Fund (see above), the report stated that effective policies and procedures must be developed to enable UNDP to deal successfully with innovative financing mechanisms. The new strategic planning for the allocation of Multilateral Fund grants urged the active participation of all countries and obligated implementing agencies to operate under strict country-driven approaches. The resulting increased workload of the staff of the UNDP Montreal Protocol Unit acting as advisers and managers of small, labour-intensive projects might necessitate a new method to calculate support costs.

On 5 February [E/2002/35 (dec. 2002/4)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board took note of the report.

#### **Convention on air pollution**

As at 31 December, 48 States and the EC were parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution [YUN 1979, p. 710], which entered into force in 1983 [YUN 1983, p. 645]. During the year, Azerbaijan acceded to the Convention. Eight protocols to the Convention dealt with the programme for monitoring and evaluation of the pollutants in Europe (1984), the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 percent (1985), the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes (1988), the control of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes (1991), further reduction of sulphur emissions (1994), heavy metals (1998), POPs (1998) and the abatement of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone (1999).

The twentieth session of the Executive Body for the Convention (Geneva, 10-13 December) [ECE/EB.AIR/77] adopted decisions related to compliance, emission data reporting and budgetary questions. It also adopted its 2003 work plan.

#### **Convention on Biological Diversity**

As at 31 December, 186 States and the EC were parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Di-

versity [YUN 1992, p. 683], which entered into force in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 210]. During 2002, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Tuvalu and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia ratified the Convention and Bosnia and Herzegovina acceded to it.

At year's end, 38 States and the EC were parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 973]. During the year, 19 States ratified the Protocol, nine States acceded to it, one State accepted it, and the EC approved it.

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (The Hague, Netherlands, 7-19 April) [UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20] adopted the Strategic Plan for the Convention (2002-2010) and the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization. The high-level segment of the Conference adopted the Hague Ministerial Declaration, which endorsed a 2010 target for a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity. The Conference decided to establish and maintain cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It took action on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems and dry and sub-humid lands; agricultural biological diversity; forest biological diversity; and biological diversity and tourism. It adopted the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, including targets for 2010, and established a programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the Global Initiative for Communication, Education and Public Awareness. Other decisions dealt with biodiversity-related issues and administrative and budgetary questions.

**Note by Secretary-General.** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/197 [YUN 2001, p. 958], the Secretary-General transmitted, in July [A/57/220], a report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on ongoing work and cooperation with UN bodies and other relevant institutions.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/12 [YUN 2001, p. 968], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [E/CN.15/2002/7], which analysed legal provisions and other documents, resolutions and recommendations dealing with illicit access to genetic resources and the extent to which organized criminal groups were involved. He stated that, although the sharing of benefits was one of the main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, much work was needed to implement national systems for access to genetic

resources and to develop fair and equitable access and arrangements for the sharing of information. The Convention did not provide a clear guide as to how intellectual property rights should be addressed in access agreements and there was considerable confusion in the international debate concerning intellectual property rights and genetic resources. Possible solutions were the establishment of minimum standards to protect traditional knowledge and strengthening and monitoring existing instruments and applying sanctions in cases of non-compliance. The Secretary-General concluded that, regarding illicit access to genetic resources, further research would have to take into consideration the initiatives of the Convention's secretariat and organizations specialized in intellectual property rights. No information on the involvement of organized criminal groups in illicit access to genetic resources had been found so far.

#### *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

The third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) (The Hague, 22-26 April) [UNEP/CBD/ICCP/3/10] considered the preparations for the first meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol and its future work. The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (see above) decided that the first meeting of the parties to the Protocol would be held in conjunction with its seventh meeting if the Protocol entered into force more than one year after the sixth meeting but before the seventh.

**Note by Executive Director.** A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/17] contained information on the implementation of a 2001 Governing Council decision on biosafety [YUN 2001, p. 958]. One hundred and six countries were developing national biosafety frameworks (NBFs), which were called for in the decision. A first round of regional workshops on the development of NBFs was completed during the first half of 2002. Four biosafety regional workshops took place as part of the component on regional capacity-building activities related to the development of NBFs. Key issues highlighted in the workshops included information gathering; project sustainability; national constraints, sub-regional, regional and global aspects; the obligations of the Protocol on Biosafety; and indicators/criteria for project success. Subregional biosafety training workshops were held in November for anglophone Africa and in December for Latin America, and were scheduled to take place from January to April 2003 for Asia, small island developing States, francophone Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe and Central



Asia. In July, the GEF Chief Executive Officer endorsed eight country-based demonstration projects aimed at assisting in capacity-building for effective implementation of NBFs. The projects, involving Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Kenya, Namibia, Poland and Uganda, became effective from September for a duration of three years. The note also covered activities supported by UNEP, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in support of the work of ICCP and other global biosafety initiatives.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/57/532/Add.5], adopted **resolution 57/260** without vote [agenda item 87 (e)].

#### Convention on Biological Diversity

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000 and 56/197 of 21 December 2001 on the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Reaffirming* that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

*Underlining* the importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, their development and wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, their protection subject to national legislation, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their commercial use, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

*Noting with interest* the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of the Netherlands for hosting the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at The Hague from 7 to 26 April 2002,

*Also expressing its deep appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2004,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;

2. *Notes* the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands from 7 to 19 April 2002;

3. *Also notes* the outcome of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at The Hague from 22 to 26 April 2002;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that one hundred eighty-five States and one regional economic integration organization have become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and urges States that have not joined the Convention to become parties to it;

5. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity as soon as possible;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of the decision of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization to examine, through the World Trade Organization Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the relationship between the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge;

7. *Recalls* the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries and includes actions at all levels, and in this regard calls upon the international community to provide the necessary support to developing countries, and stresses the importance of the effective use of resources;

8. *Also recalls* the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. And invites the Conference of the Parties to take appropriate steps in this regard;

9. *Further recalls* the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to implement the expanded action-oriented work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity on all types of forest biological diversity, in close cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other forest-related processes and conventions, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

10. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages continued cooperation to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

11. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to work closely with the Global Environment Facility and other relevant institutions to help developing countries to build the required national capacities to prepare for the entry into

force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including in the areas of risk assessment and risk management;

12. *Welcomes* the launching of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing House, and calls for strengthened international support for developing countries to build their national capacities to interact with it and to benefit from its expeditious strengthening so that it becomes fully functional at the time of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

13. *Emphasizes* the need for a substantial increase in financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard welcomes the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

14. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

#### **Convention to combat desertification**

In 2002, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Latvia, Maldives, Slovakia, Somalia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine acceded to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa [YUN 1994, p. 944], which entered into force in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 958], bringing the total number of parties to 186. The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was to be held in Cuba in 2003.

The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), established in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 959], at its first session (Rome, 11-22 November) [ICCD/CRIC(1)/10], reviewed and analysed progress reports on the implementation of the Convention submitted by affected country parties, developed country parties, subregional, regional and international organizations and UN agencies. The meeting report contained conclusions and recommendations relating to participatory processes involving civil society, community-based organizations and NGOs; legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements; resource mobilization and coordination; improved linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies; measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land; drought and desertification monitoring and assessment and early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought; and access by affected country parties, particularly developing country parties, to technology, knowledge and know-how. Recommen-

ations for further steps in the implementation of the Convention dealt with the review process and procedures for the communication of information; improving the efficiency and effectiveness of measures in reaching the end-users of natural resources; best practices, experiences and lessons learned and the promotion of information exchange; necessary adjustments to the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes (NAPs); the promotion of knowledge and technology transfer; and financing Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including GEF. The Committee adopted the programme of work for its second session, to be held in August 2003.

The Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology met (Bonn, 7-9 October) to select a 25-member group of experts in the area of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, which held its first meeting in Hamburg, Germany, from 4 to 7 November to identify the group's tasks and develop its work plan.

**Report of Secretary-General.** As requested in General Assembly resolution 56/196 [YUN 2001, p. 960], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/177], described measures to implement the Convention, including the work of CRIC (see above) and the Panel of Eminent Personalities to reflect on the nexus between poverty and environment in the context of the effective implementation of the Convention. The report stated that, as at June, 57 affected countries had finalized the development of NAPs to combat desertification, and that the preparation and finalization of NAPs had intensified the Convention's implementation. The joint liaison group, established to enhance coordination among the desertification Convention, UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity and explore options for further cooperation, including the possibility of joint work plans, held two meetings.

**Note by Executive Director.** In keeping with a 2001 Governing Council decision [YUN 2001, p. 959], the Executive Director submitted a December note [UNEP/GC.22/INF/25] defining UNEP's role in land-use management and soil conservation under its strengthened functional approach. The note stated that UNEP was challenged to relate environmental aspects of land-use management and soil conservation to the objectives of sustainable development, particularly poverty reduction. UNEP's expertise in environmental assessment, policy guidance and implementation was key for an improved integration of environmental land and soil issues across other focal areas and in international, regional and national development processes, in particular the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000,

p. 51] and the World Summit's Plan of Implementation (see p. 821). UNEP's strategy on land use management and soil conservation required close cooperation with Governments, civil society and other UN and international organizations to ensure a broadly acceptable and efficient implementation, as well as the necessary support of UNEP for additional resources.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/57/532/Add.4], adopted **resolution 57/259** without vote [agenda item 87 (d)].

#### **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 56/196 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Italy for the organization of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Rome, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, from 11 to 22 November 2002,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

*Noting with interest* the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held in Beijing from 16 to 18 October 2002, particularly the decision on making land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, a new focal area of the Facility,

*Recognizing* the strong commitment of the international community, demonstrated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to make the Facility available as a financial mechanism of the Convention, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, and in this regard encourages the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as the supreme body of the Convention, to take the appropriate decision to that effect at its next ordinary session in 2003,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of Cuba to host the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held at Havana from 25 August to 5 September 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility that the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Ser-

ious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, if the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should so decide, and in this regard notes with satisfaction that the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility has requested the Council of the Facility to consider any such decision of the Conference of the Parties with a view to making the necessary arrangements;

3. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session, in response to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the decision of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to consider making the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention as a means of promoting the availability of financial mechanisms, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, while recognizing the complementary roles of the Facility and the Global Mechanism in providing and mobilizing resources for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes;

4. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties and the Council and Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to continue to collaborate closely and effectively to facilitate the financing of the successful implementation of the Convention by supporting financial mechanisms such as the Facility, so as to fully achieve the objectives of the Convention;

5. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its May 2003 meeting to finalize and adopt the operational programme for land degradation, particularly desertification and deforestation;

6. *Emphasizes* that, in the light of the ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Convention, the affected developing countries that are parties to the Convention need the full and effective support of the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, and other partners for capacity-building and other activities which assist them in meeting their obligations under the Convention;

7. *Welcomes* the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund which will provide additional resources necessary to enable the Facility to continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its recipient countries;

8. *Calls upon* all countries and other entities in a position to do so to make additional contributions to the Global Environment Facility;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the increased number of developing countries that are parties to the Convention and that have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes, and urges the affected parties that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes, with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible;

10. *Invites* affected developing countries to place the implementation of their action programmes to combat desertification high among their priorities in their dialogue with their development partners;

11. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps being taken by affected developing countries that are parties to the Convention, with the assistance of international organizations and bilateral development partners, to implement the Convention and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of civil society in the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes to combat desertification, and in that re-



gard encourages countries to cooperate at the sub-regional and regional levels, as appropriate;

12. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism, and encourages further efforts in that regard for the effective implementation of the Convention;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute to the implementation of action programmes through, inter alia, the conclusion of partnership agreements as well as the bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, including contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and to support the efforts of the developing countries to implement the Convention;

14. *Invites* all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2002-2003, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for the year 1999 and/or the biennium 2000-2001 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

15. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages continuing cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme to implement decision 2000/23 of 29 September 2000 of its Executive Board, pertaining to the cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations Development Programme, in order to mainstream activities to combat desertification at the national, subregional and regional levels;

17. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

### Environmental activities

#### Follow-up to the Millennium Summit

In July [A/57/270 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General reported on progress achieved by the

UN system and Member States to implement the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49], including progress in protecting the environment. The Secretary-General said that 10 years after UNCED [YUN 1992, p. 670], the state of the world's environment remained fragile and the achievement of the seventh Millennium Development Goal (MDG), that of ensuring environmental sustainability, was receding. Globally, there had been improvements in protecting biodiversity, in complying with chlorofluorocarbon consumption agreements, as in the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer [YUN 1987, p. 686] to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804] (see p. 1043), and in using energy more efficiently. However, there had also been a global net loss in forestry, little progress in reducing indoor air pollution in developing countries and a failure to bring into force the 1997 Kyoto Protocol [YUN 1997, p. 1048] to the 1992 UNFCCC [YUN 1992, p. 681] (see p. 1042). Many regions of the world, including fast-growing East Asia, stood at risk of environmental crisis in the years ahead. Several regions faced the prospect of water shortages due to aquifer depletion. Soil nutrient depletion threatened impoverished rural livelihoods, especially in Africa and parts of Asia, and high levels of tropical deforestation continued, especially in Latin America.

Developed countries needed to assist the developing countries that were most vulnerable to climate change to adapt their economies, and more efforts were needed to educate the public on environmental issues, to gather better data on climate change and to absorb carbon by, for example, planting trees. Member States needed to take action to fulfil commitments made at UNCED. In preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 824), the Secretary-General was urging Member States to assign priority to the key areas of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (see p. 1036). Specifically, he called for water management strategies to reduce leakage and waste, particularly in agriculture; more efficient use of energy and a higher proportion of energy from renewable sources; expanded access to safe drinking water and affordable clean energy; a reduction of health risks through improved sanitation methods, immunization and the safe disposal of toxic waste; reformed agricultural practices to end land degradation and increase productivity; and the preservation of biodiversity through a more rigorously selective exploitation of natural resources, combined with the provision of alternative solutions for communities



whose livelihoods depended on unsustainable practices.

#### *Millennium ecosystem assessment*

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/27] provided information on the status of implementation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a four-year international assessment launched in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 961], which was designed to meet the needs of decision makers for scientific information on the links between ecosystem change and human well-being. The Assessment was interacting closely with the parties to the biological diversity Convention, the Convention to combat desertification, and the Ramsar Wetlands Convention (Ramsar Convention). Findings, to be released in 2004, would contribute to the Summit's follow-up. The Assessment established a group of affiliated scientific organizations and national academies of sciences to facilitate the involvement of scientists from a number of countries and to provide a mechanism to disseminate findings through scientists within those countries. It was engaged with stakeholders at the national level, organizing dialogue processes to receive their input and ensure a broader dissemination of outputs. The design phase of the Assessment was concluded in January.

The Assessment consisted of a global assessment and a series of linked regional and national assessments. Sub-global assessments were under way in Canada, India, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Southern Africa, Sweden and Western China, and a cross-cutting assessment was taking place in a number of tropical forests around the world. Candidate assessments (those that had agreed to follow Assessment criteria but were in preliminary planning and fund-raising stages) were approved for the Americas, South-East Asia and other regions. The Assessment was being carried out through the Sub-Global Working Group; the Condition Working Group, which described major ecosystem services; the Scenarios Working Group; and the Responses Working Group. All working groups met in 2002 and would meet twice in 2003 to finalize the first drafts of their assessment reports. The Assessment was scheduled to hold an international conference on linking local knowledge and global science in 2003, in conjunction with the second meeting of the Sub-Global Working Group.

#### **The atmosphere**

##### *World Climate Change Conference (2003)*

Under an initiative of the Russian Federation, the World Climate Change Conference was scheduled to take place in Moscow from 29 Sep-

tember to 3 October 2003 to discuss the scientific aspects of natural and anthropogenic climate change; the impacts of climate change; measures for adapting human society, economies and ecosystems to ongoing and future climate change; and integrated approaches to reducing anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The Conference would try to foster mutual understanding on those issues between various stakeholders, including Governments, the scientific community, the business community, NGOs and the public at large.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/57/532/Add.3], adopted **resolution 57/258** without vote [agenda item 87 (c)].

#### **World Climate Change Conference**

*The General Assembly,*

*Acknowledging* that change in the earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind,

*Acknowledging also* that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation, consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

*Welcoming* the ongoing work in the United Nations system on climate change, in particular within the framework of the Convention, which is the key instrument for addressing this global concern,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

*Taking into account also* the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

*Recognizing with concern* the findings of the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in which the Panel confirmed that significant cuts in global emissions will be necessary to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention, and recognizing the ongoing consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the implications of the report,

*Reaffirming* the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner,

*Recognizing* the need for strengthening scientific and technological capabilities and networks for the exchange of scientific data and information,

*Stressing* that the World Climate Change Conference will be supportive of the Convention process,

*Noting* the importance of broad participation in this process by Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the scientific community,

the private sector and other representatives of civil society,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of the Russian Federation to convene the World Climate Change Conference at Moscow from 29 September to 3 October 2003 as a forum for the exchange of views among the scientific community, Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the private sector and other representatives of civil society and for facilitating the implementation of existing policies related to climate change;

2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other international and national organizations, parliaments, the scientific community, the private sector and other representatives of civil society, to participate actively in the Conference;

3. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Conference in order to increase awareness of the importance of international efforts to address climate change.

#### *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), at its nineteenth session (Geneva, 17-20 April), under its national greenhouse gas inventories programme (NGGIP), decided on the terms of reference, draft table of contents and draft work plan for developing definitions for deforestation and other types of devegetation, and methodological options to inventory emissions resulting from those activities. It adopted a proposal for carrying out its NGGIP land use, land-use change and forestry programme. The Panel decided that the fourth assessment report would be completed in 2007. Other decisions dealt with administrative issues and proposals for the 2003-2005 budget.

Pursuant to a decision adopted at its nineteenth session, IPCC held a workshop on carbon capture and storage (Regina, Canada, 18-21 November).

#### **Terrestrial ecosystems**

In 2002, it was estimated that nearly one quarter of all arable land (excluding mountains and deserts) was degraded to a degree that affected agricultural productivity and 70 per cent of the world's drylands, among the most vulnerable, were degraded.

UNEP, in collaboration with the World Bank's Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, was helping nine African countries to identify the causes of degradation in key sites representing a range of dryland habitats. Action plans would be drawn up to reverse the decline and would then be used as blueprints for land recovery and conservation projects in similar African desert margin areas.

**Communication.** On 10 July, the United Arab Emirates transmitted the Abu Dhabi Declaration on Agricultural Development and Desertification Control [A/57/202], adopted by the General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development at its twenty-seventh session (Abu Dhabi, 28-30 April).

#### *Deforestation and forest degradation*

##### United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 [YUN 2000, p. 979] to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end. UNFF's second session, which was to have taken place in Costa Rica [YUN 2001, p. 964], was held in New York (4-15 March 2002) and included its first high-level ministerial segment [E/2002/42]. A joint meeting of the bureaux of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and UNFF in January focused on preparations for the second session and forests within the Summit's process.

The Forum adopted three resolutions and three decisions, which were brought to the Council's attention. It adopted a ministerial declaration and message to the Summit, which were annexed to a resolution [res. 2/1], and requested the Secretary-General to transmit both to the Summit through the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit (see p. 824). In the declaration and message, ministers responsible for forests reaffirmed their commitment to the Forest Principles [YUN 1992, p. 674] and Agenda 21 [ibid., p. 672], and invited the Summit to take actions to advance the protection of forests.

A resolution on the implementation of the proposals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) [YUN 1995, p. 1080] and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) [YUN 1997, p. 1057] and the UNFF plan of action adopted in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 964] [res. 2/2] addressed the issues of combating deforestation and forest degradation; forest conservation and protection of unique forests and fragile ecosystems; rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover; rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests; and concepts, terminology and definitions, which identified successes, obstacles and lessons learned. UNFF adopted specific criteria for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests [res. 2/3], as contained in Council resolution 2000/35. The Forum re-

requested its secretariat to develop a suggested format for voluntary reporting to its third (2003) session [dec. 2/1]; agreed to discuss further, in 2003, the titles, composition, terms of reference, scheduling and reporting of the ad hoc expert groups [dec. 2/2]; and revised its 2002-2005 medium-term plan to include a new subprogramme on sustainable forest management [dec. 2/3].

The Forum had before it reports of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to combating deforestation and forest degradation [E/CN.18/2002/6]; rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover [E/CN.18/2002/7]; monitoring, assessment and reporting, including concepts, terminology and definitions [E/CN.18/2002/8]; and the conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems [E/CN.18/2002/9]. Further reports of the Secretary-General addressed the productive aspects of the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, in particular through planted forests and natural forest restoration [E/CN.18/2002/3], provided an overview of the current status of national forest programmes [E/CN.18/2002/4], which were being implemented in about 100 countries, and described the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management [E/CN.18/2002/10 & Add.1,2], which took place during UNFF's second session in accordance with Council resolution 2000/35. The Secretary-General provided information on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, particularly with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests [E/CN.18/2002/2], established in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 964], and information on trade and sustainable forest management, including an overview of the IPF/IFF process, global trade and forest resources trends, and the current status and assessment of developments concerning trade in forest products and services [E/CN.18/2002/5]. A Secretariat note [E/CN.18/2002/11] described the main issues for consideration at the high-level ministerial segment of the second session. The Forum also considered reports of the international expert meeting on monitoring, assessment and reporting on the progress towards sustainable forest management (Yokohama, Japan, 5-8 November 2001) [E/CN.18/2002/12] and a workshop on forests and biological diversity (Accra, Ghana, 28-30 January) [E/CN.18/2002/13].

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council decided that UNFF's third session would be held in Geneva from 26 May to 6 June 2003 (**decision 2002/300**) and took note of the Forum's report on its second session and approved the provi-

sional agenda for the third session (**decision 2002/301**).

#### *International Year of Mountains*

**Report of Secretary-General.** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/189 [YUN 2000, p. 982], the Secretary-General transmitted, in July, an interim report on the International Year of Mountains (2002) [A/57/188], proclaimed by the Assembly in resolution 53/24 [YUN 1998, p. 994]. The report, which was prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in its capacity as the Year's lead agency, described progress made at the national, regional and international levels midway through 2002, emphasizing activities that would ensure that the Year was a catalyst for long-term, effective action. Significant results achieved by the Year included the founding, by UN permanent representatives, of the International Year of Mountains Focus Group, which supported observance of and follow-up to the Year; the establishment of 67 national committees as mechanisms for developing national strategic plans and policies to achieve sustainable mountain development; and strengthened implementation of chapter 13 of Agenda 21 [YUN 1992, p. 672] on sustainable mountain development. Stimulating the long-term action needed to implement chapter 13 required increased national involvement in and partnership support for observance of the Year and its activities. The report recommended, for the Assembly's consideration, possible courses of action that could be taken by Governments to consolidate and build on results achieved so far.

**UNEP action.** A report entitled "Mountain Watch", compiled by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre as a contribution to the International Year of Mountains, represented the first map-based assessment of environmental change in mountain areas and the implications for sustainable development. The report showed that the world's mountain regions were gradually being converted to agricultural land and noted that while traditional systems, such as terracing, could have a healthy impact on mountain areas, much of the conversion was leading to a loss of forests and other land cover.

**Communications.** In November, Kyrgyzstan forwarded the Bishkek Mountain Platform, which was formulated during the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit (28 October-1 November) [A/C.2/57/7], the culminating global event of the International Year of Mountains. The Platform would provide a framework for stakeholders and others to contribute to sustainable mountain development and enable them to improve the livelihoods of mountain people, to protect mountain

ecosystems and to use mountain resources more wisely.

Also in November, Switzerland, acting as the representative of the International Year of Mountains Focus Group, transmitted the constitutive document for the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions [A/C.2/57/8], launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821). Twenty-nine countries, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 13 organizations from major groups were committed to the Partnership.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/57/531/Add.5], adopted **resolution 57/245** without vote [agenda item 86].

#### International Year of Mountains, 2002

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, in which it proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains,

*Recalling also* its resolution 55/189 of 20 December 2000,

*Recognizing* chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable mountain development,

*Noting* the voluntary International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the committed support of twenty-nine countries, sixteen intergovernmental organizations and sixteen organizations from the major groups, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable mountain development,

*Taking note* of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held at Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

1. *Takes note* of the interim report transmitted by the Secretary-General on the International Year of Mountains, 2002;

2. *Welcomes* the success achieved during the International Year of Mountains, during which numerous activities and initiatives were undertaken at all levels, including major international meetings held in Bhutan, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, India, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Peru and Switzerland, which catalysed a strengthened interest for sustainable development and poverty eradication in mountain regions;

3. *Recommends* that the experience gained during the International Year of Mountains be valued in the context of an appropriate follow-up;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the effective role played by Governments, as well as major groups, academic institutions and international organizations and agencies, in the activities related to the International Year of

Mountains, including the establishment of seventy-four national committees;

5. *Also notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the lead agency for the International Year of Mountains, as well as the valuable contributions made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children’s Fund;

6. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations and the private sector to provide support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to the local, national and international programmes and projects resulting from the International Year of Mountains;

7. *Invites* the international community and other relevant partners to consider joining the voluntary International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions;

8. *Notes* that all stakeholders in the voluntary International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions have initiated a consultative process, with a view to determining the best options for further assisting stakeholders in the implementation of the Partnership, including through consideration of the offer made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to host a secretariat financed through voluntary contributions;

9. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue their constructive collaboration in the context of the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains, taking into account the inter-agency group on mountains, and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund, international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations, consistent with the mandates specified in the Bishkek Mountain Platform;

10. *Decides* to designate 11 December as International Mountain Day, as from 11 December 2003, and encourages the international community to organize on this day events at all levels to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the achievements of the International Year of Mountains, under a sub-item entitled “Sustainable mountain development” of the item entitled “Environment and sustainable development”.

#### Marine ecosystems

##### Oceans and seas

UNEP launched an Internet-based Oceans Atlas in Paris on 5 June, World Environment Day,



which provided updated strategic data on the state of the world's oceans, maps, development trends and threats to human health from the deteriorating marine environment.

The Center for the Study of Marine Policy of the University of Delaware (United States), in cooperation with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and UNEP's Global Programme of Action (see below), presented a guide to oceans, coasts and islands at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 823). The guide was later revised to incorporate coverage of the Summit meetings, proceedings and outcomes.

#### Global waters assessment

The Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), which was inaugurated in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 982] to assess international waters and causes of environmental problems in 66 water regions, focusing on the aquatic environment in trans-boundary waters, presented the first result of the GIWA assessment at the twelfth Stockholm water symposium (12-15 August). Overexploitation of fisheries and related issues such as excessive destruction of by-catch and the use of destructive fishing techniques were considered the most severe issues in more subregions than any other environmental problem.

Pursuant to a 2001 UNEP Governing Council decision [YUN 2001, p. 964], the Executive Director reported in November [UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.5] on progress made by UNEP to explore the establishment of a regular process to assess the state of the marine environment, with active involvement by Governments and regional agreements. In the light of an initial informal consultative meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 965], UNEP convened a second meeting (Bremen, Germany, 18-20 March) in the form of a technical workshop to elaborate further the key objectives and define the practical framework for developing a global assessment process. The workshop achieved a consensus on a regular process and how it might be set up; endorsed a general outline of the assessment process and its components; and recommended a survey of current and future marine environmental assessments and related scientific activities. The main goal of establishing a suitable global mechanism was to provide on a regular, timely and scientific basis the necessary assessments of the state and trends and all aspects of marine ecosystems, with primary focus given to anthropogenic effects and impacts. The costs and funding of a global assessment process, including capacity-building, would be covered by contributions from key countries.

The recommendations of the consultative and technical meetings on the establishment of a global marine assessment mechanism (GMA) were presented at the third meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process (ICP) on oceans and the law of the sea (New York, 8-15 April) [A/57/80] (see p. 1322). The protection and preservation of the marine environment, including the establishment of GMA, were among the issues suggested by ICP for consideration by the General Assembly. The World Summit called for the establishment of GMA in 2004.

#### Global Programme of Action

A January report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VII/4/Add.4] provided an overview of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities [YUN 2001, p. 965]. Annexed to the report were, among other things, the Declaration of the Global Legislators Organizations for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) and statements by intergovernmental bodies and NGOs.

On 15 February [A/57/25 (dec. SS.VII/6)], the UNEP Governing Council, noting progress made in the implementation of GPA, endorsed the outcomes of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting as a valuable contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21. It called on international financial institutions, regional development banks and other international financial mechanisms, particularly the World Bank and GEF, to facilitate and finance activities related to GPA implementation. It also called on Governments, the private sector and the international financial community to enhance the financing and implementation of innovative, appropriate and sustainable approaches to wastewater management by further integrating wastewater management with water supply objectives, promoting water reuse and demand management, and applying alternative approaches with regard to financing, partnerships, technology, institutional and managerial arrangements. The Council endorsed the 2002-2006 programme of work proposed by the GPA Coordination Office and requested the Executive Director to submit the outcomes of the first Intergovernmental Review of GPA to the governing or organizing bodies of relevant organizations, programmes and processes to actively participate in the realization of the GPA objectives, especially at the national, subregional and regional levels.

An October progress report on the implementation of GPA [UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.2 & Corr.1] discussed the implementation of the 2002-2006

work programme, GPA inputs to the World Summit and follow-up activities carried out by the GPA Coordination Office, and suggested actions for GPA and the UNEP Governing Council in 2003. The report highlighted the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, a joint initiative of the GPA Coordination Office, the World Health Organization (WHO), UN-Habitat and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, which was to foster concrete action at the local and national levels and aimed to promote alternative solutions to address the impact of sewage on the coastal and marine environment. The Plan sought to promote global consensus on best practices and procedures through the implementation of normative, demonstration and capacity-building components.

Annexed to a November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/4] was an update on practical guidance on municipal wastewater management, which was first considered during the 2001 Intergovernmental Review [YUN 2001, p. 965]. The update contained 10 key principles of local and national action on municipal wastewater.

#### Coral reefs

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/17] contained information on the implementation of a 2001 Governing Council decision regarding coral reefs [YUN 2001, p. 965]. UNEP was participating in reforms of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) [YUN 1995, p. 1084], which were intended initially to establish firmer procedures of the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee and later would make ICRI more transparent and influential. UNEP was also exploring opportunities for MEAs with an interest in coral reefs to become more integrated in conservation at the global and regional levels, particularly with the involvement of ICRI. UNEP supported the second international tropical marine ecosystems management symposium (Manila, Philippines, 25-28 November), organized by the ICRI secretariat. UNEP continued to support the coordination and implementation of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), set up in 2001 to address the state of the declining coral reefs by facilitating the implementation of the priorities identified by ICRI [YUN 2001, p. 966]. Activities continued at ICRAN sites in the Caribbean, East Africa, East Asia and the South Pacific, and additional sites were being identified in South Asia and the Arabian seas. The note highlighted activities carried out under the ICRAN action phase, which began in 2001 [ibid.]. UNEP organized an event at the World Summit (see p. 821) called "People and Reefs: A Partnership

for Prosperity" to address the further development and geographic expansion of ICRAN, during which the United States Agency for International Development and the United Nations Foundation announced \$3 million in new funding for ICRAN work in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. The Summit's Plan of Implementation provided further backing to ICRAN's work by listing numerous current ICRAN activities and identifying new activities.

The World Fish Centre set up ReefBase as ICRAN's global coral reef information system, which contained data on coral reef bleaching events dating back to 1963. Findings from ReefBase released in October revealed that a new wave of bleaching, which was associated with increased seawater temperatures and could damage and kill reefs, had swept coral reefs worldwide.

#### Regional Seas Programme

The Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the North-East Pacific and its Action Plan were signed on 18 February, in Antigua, Guatemala, by six States of the region.

The Executive Director, by a November note [UNEP/GC.22/INF/18], presented a status report on the Regional Seas Programme, which contained a summary of progress made and activities carried out by the Programme since the twenty-first (2001) session of UNEP's Governing Council [YUN 2001, p. 943] and a description of new strategic elements that would form the basis for its future programme of work. The main objectives of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans were to promote sustainable development and integrated management of coastal areas and associated river basins; promote the implementation of technical, institutional, administrative and legal measures for the protection of the coastal and marine environment; and facilitate the monitoring and assessment of the coastal and marine environment. The Executive Director noted that as part of UNEP's preparations for the Summit (see p. 821), the Regional Seas Programme organized a consultative meeting of coordinators (New York, April).

#### Caribbean Sea management

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/203 [YUN 2000, p. 983], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/57/131] assessing progress made in promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development. It described activities undertaken by the International Mari-

time Organization, the European Commission, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Community, GEF, UNEP and various States.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/57/532/Add.6], adopted **resolution 57/261** without vote [agenda item 87 (f)].

#### Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

*Taking into account* all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999 and 55/203 of 20 December 2000,

*Taking into account also* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

*Noting with interest* the respective partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character,

*Conscious* that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

*Emphasizing* the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

*Recalling* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

*Welcoming* the adoption, on 6 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

*Welcoming also* the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and climate variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

*Underlining* the importance of the ongoing work of the working group on climate change and natural disasters established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

*Recognizing* the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

*Taking note* of resolutions GC(44)/RES/17 of 22 September 2000 and GC(46)RES/9 of 20 September 2002 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Welcoming the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish the Working Group of Experts on the Caribbean Sea Initiative to further advance the implementation of resolution 55/203, inter alia, through the preparation of a technical report,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Recognizes the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;
3. Encourages the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
4. Also encourages the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, in order to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships, physical impacts on coral reefs and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;
5. Calls upon States to continue to prioritize action on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, and also calls upon them to advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

6. Calls upon the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including

radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

7. Calls upon all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

8. Calls upon the international community to support the efforts of the Working Group of Experts on the Caribbean Sea Initiative of the Association of Caribbean States to further implement resolution 55/203, and invites the Association to submit a report on its progress to the Secretary-General for consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

9. Calls upon all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships;

10. Supports the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes by strengthening the recently established Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism;

11. Calls upon States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems, such as coral reefs;

12. Invites intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and to implement them effectively;

13. Calls upon the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the above-mentioned approach;

14. Calls upon Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

#### *Living marine resources*

Drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing and fisheries by-catch and discards

In October [A/57/459], the Secretary-General presented information received from States, UN bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental



organizations, NGOs and regional and sub-regional fisheries organizations on efforts made to implement General Assembly resolution 55/8 [YUN 2000, p. 985] regarding the impact on the world's living marine resources of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards. He also included information on the implementation of FAO plans of action for the management of fishing capacity, for reducing incidental catch of seabirds, and for the conservation and management of sharks; the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which was adopted within the framework of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and called for the development and implementation of national action plans not later than 2004; and other developments related to the conservation and management of marine resources. The Secretary-General stated that, while it was evident that the problem of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing was abating owing to the continued resolve by the international community to ensure the implementation of the global moratorium on such fishing methods, the problem of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing continued to threaten the conservation and management of the oceans's fishery resources, and efforts to combat the phenomenon should continue. The Secretary-General also stated that technical and financial assistance to developing countries should be provided comprehensively with a view to enhancing the ability of countries to better conserve and manage marine fisheries resources under their jurisdiction; to enable them to participate in high seas fisheries; and to help them to exploit fisheries for nutritional need and to achieve food security. The Secretary-General presented a series of measures for Member States to enhance the protection of living marine resources.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 74], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 57/142** [draft: A/57/L.49 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 25 (b)].

#### **Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas/illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 46/215 of 20 December 1991, 49/116 and 49/118 of 19 December 1994, 50/25 of 5 December 1995, 51/36 of 9 December 1996, 52/29 of 26 November 1997, 53/33 of 24 November 1998 and 55/8 of 30 October 2000, as well as other resolutions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the

high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments, and bearing in mind resolution 57/143 of 12 December 2002,

*Noting* that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations sets out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices to conserve, manage and develop fisheries, including guidelines for fishing on the high seas and in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, and on fishing gear selectivity and practices, with the aim of reducing by-catch and discards,

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development concerning the importance of achieving sustainable fisheries to the maintenance of oceans, seas, islands and coastal areas as an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem, for global food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being of many national economies, particularly in developing countries,

*Noting* the importance of the wide application of the precautionary approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ("the Agreement"), and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,

*Noting also* the importance of implementing the principles elaborated in article 5 of the Agreement, including ecosystem considerations, in the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks,

*Noting further* the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem and decisions V/6 and VI/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Recognizing* the importance of integrated, multidisciplinary and multisectoral coastal and ocean management at the national, subregional and regional levels,

*Recognizing also* that coordination and cooperation at the global, regional, subregional as well as national levels in the areas, inter alia, of data collection, information-sharing, capacity-building and training are crucial for the conservation, management and sustainable development of marine living resources,

*Recognizing further* the duty provided as a principle in the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas ("the Compliance Agreement"), the Agreement and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries for flag States to exercise effective control over fishing vessels flying their flag and vessels flying their flag which provide support to such vessels, and to ensure that the activities of such vessels do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures taken in accordance with international law and adopted at the national, subregional, regional or global levels,

*Emphasizing* the call made in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") for States to ratify or accede to and then effectively imple-

ment the Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, and noting with concern that the latter agreement has not yet entered into force,

*Noting* that the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in February 1999 adopted international plans of action for the management of fishing capacity, for reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries and for the conservation and management of sharks, and noting with concern that only a small number of countries have begun implementation of the international plans of action,

*Concerned* that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing threatens seriously to deplete populations of certain fish species and significantly damage marine ecosystems and that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has a detrimental impact on sustainable fisheries, including the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States, and in that regard urging States and entities referred to in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention") and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b) of the Agreement to collaborate in efforts to address these types of fishing activities,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2001 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which focuses on the primary responsibility of the flag State and the use of all available jurisdiction in accordance with international law, including port State measures, coastal State measures, market-related measures and measures to ensure that nationals do not support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

*Noting* that the objective of the International Plan of Action is to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by providing all States with comprehensive, effective and transparent measures by which to act, including through appropriate regional fisheries management organizations in accordance with international law,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General, and emphasizing the useful role that the report plays in bringing together information relating to the sustainable development of the world's marine living resources provided by States, relevant international organizations, regional and subregional fisheries organizations and non-governmental organizations,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the incidence of reported large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing activities in most regions of the world's oceans and seas has continued to be low,

*Concerned* that the practice of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing remains a threat to marine living resources,

*Expressing its continuing concern* that efforts should be made to ensure that the implementation of resolution 46/215 in some parts of the world does not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift-nets that contravene the resolution,

*Expressing concern* at the significant level of by-catch, including of juvenile fish, and discards in several of the world's fisheries, recognizing that the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-

effective fishing gear and techniques will be important for reducing or eliminating by-catch and discards, and calling attention to the impact this activity can have on efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks, including restoring some stocks to sustainable levels,

*Expressing concern also* at the reports of continued loss of seabirds, particularly albatrosses, as a result of incidental mortality from longline fishing operations, and the loss of other marine species, including sharks and fin-fish species, as a result of incidental mortality, noting with satisfaction the successful conclusion of negotiations on the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and encouraging States to give due consideration to participation in this Agreement,

*Noting with satisfaction* the recent entry into force of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and Their Habitats, which contains provisions to minimize the incidental catch of sea turtles in fishing operations,

*Noting with satisfaction also* the recent adoption of regional sea turtle conservation instruments in the West African and Indian Ocean-South East Asia regions,

*Recognizing* the continuing need for the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular its Regional Seas programme, and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to address the issue of marine debris derived from land-based and ship-generated sources of pollution, including derelict fishing gear, which can cause mortality and habitat destruction of marine living resources,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the marine living resources of the world's oceans and seas and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular the provisions on cooperation set out in part V and part VII, section 2, of the Convention regarding straddling stocks, highly migratory species, marine mammals, anadromous stocks and marine living resources of the high seas, and where applicable, the Agreement;

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to restore depleted fish stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015;

3. *Urges* all States to apply the precautionary approach widely to the conservation, management and exploitation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, and calls upon States parties to the Agreement to implement fully the provisions of article 6 of the Agreement as a matter of priority;

4. *Encourages* States to apply by 2010 the ecosystem approach, notes the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem and decisions V/6 and VI/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, supports continuing work under way in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop guidelines for the implementation of ecosystem considerations in fisheries management, and notes the importance of

relevant provisions of the Agreement and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to this approach;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 49/118, 50/25, 52/29, 53/33 and 55/8, and urges States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement to enforce fully the measures recommended in those resolutions;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of efforts by States directly or, as appropriate, through the relevant regional and subregional organizations, and by other international organizations, including through financial and/or technical assistance, to increase the capacity of developing States to achieve the goals and implement the actions called for in the present resolution;

7. *Appeals* to States and regional fisheries organizations, including regional fisheries management bodies and regional fisheries arrangements, to promote the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries within their areas of competence;

8. *Encourages* coastal States to develop ocean policies and mechanisms on integrated management, including at the subregional and regional levels, and also including assistance to developing States in accomplishing these objectives;

9. *Calls upon* States and other entities referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the Compliance Agreement that have not deposited instruments of acceptance of the Compliance Agreement to do so as a matter of priority;

10. *Calls upon* States not to permit vessels flying their flag to engage in fishing on the high seas or in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, unless duly authorized by the authorities of the States concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, without having effective control over their activities, and to take specific measures, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, the Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, to control fishing operations by vessels flying their flag;

11. *Also calls upon* States, in accordance with Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to take effective action, consistent with international law, to deter reflagging of vessels by their nationals as a means of avoiding compliance with applicable conservation and management measures for fishing vessels on the high seas;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuing activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through its Interregional Programme of Assistance to Developing Countries for the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including the Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries, as a special programme funded through donor trust fund contributions aimed at, inter alia, promoting the implementation of the Code of Conduct and its associated international plans of action;

13. *Encourages* States to implement directly or, as appropriate, through the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, the international plans of action of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries, for the conservation and management of sharks and for the management of fishing

capacity, since, according to the timetables contained within the international plans of action, progress on implementation, in particular through the development of national plans of action, should be either completed or at an advanced stage;

14. *Urges* States to develop and implement national and, where appropriate, regional plans of action, to put into effect by 2004 the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to establish effective monitoring, reporting and enforcement and control of fishing vessels, including by flag States, to further the International Plan of Action;

15. *Also urges* States, as a matter of priority, to coordinate their activities and cooperate directly and, as appropriate, through relevant regional fisheries management organizations, in the implementation of the International Plan of Action, to promote information-sharing, to encourage the full participation of all stakeholders, and in all efforts to coordinate all the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with other international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization;

16. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue its cooperative arrangements with United Nations agencies on the implementation of the International Plan of Action and to report to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in his annual report on oceans and the law of the sea, on priorities for cooperation and coordination in this work;

17. *Affirms* the need to strengthen, where necessary, the international legal framework for intergovernmental cooperation in the management of fish stocks and in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in a manner consistent with international law;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuing activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations aimed at providing assistance to developing countries in upgrading their capabilities in monitoring, control and surveillance, including through its Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries project, "Management for Responsible Fisheries, Phase 1", which provides assistance to developing countries in upgrading their capabilities in monitoring, control and surveillance, and improving the provision of scientific advice for fisheries management;

19. *Also notes with satisfaction* the establishment of the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Network for Fisheries-Related Activities, a voluntary network of monitoring, control and surveillance professionals designed to facilitate exchange of information and to support countries in satisfying their obligations pursuant to international agreements, in particular the Compliance Agreement, and encourages States to consider becoming members of the Network;

20. *Urges* States to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to over-capacity, while completing the efforts undertaken at the World Trade Organization to clarify and improve its disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of this sector to developing countries;

21. *Urges* States, relevant international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries manage-



ment organizations and arrangements that have not done so to take action to reduce or eliminate by-catch, fish discards and post-harvest losses, including juvenile fish, consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and in particular to consider measures including, as appropriate, technical measures related to fish size, mesh size or gear, discards, closed seasons and areas and zones reserved for selected fisheries, particularly artisanal fisheries, the establishment of mechanisms for communicating information on areas of high concentration of juvenile fish, taking into account the importance of ensuring confidentiality of such information, and support for studies and research that will minimize by-catch of juvenile fish;

22. *Notes with satisfaction* the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility, aimed at promoting the reduction of by-catch and discards in fisheries activities;

23. *Calls upon* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular its Regional Seas programme, the International Maritime Organization, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other appropriate intergovernmental organizations to take up, as a matter of priority, the issue of marine debris as it relates to fisheries and, where appropriate, to promote better coordination and help States to implement fully relevant international agreements, including annex V to the Guidelines of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto;

24. *Invites* States entitled to become parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and Their Habitats to consider doing so, and to participate in its work;

25. *Invites* States entitled to become parties to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and Their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia to consider doing so, and to participate in their work;

26. *Invites* regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that all States having a real interest in the fisheries concerned may become members of such organizations or participate in such arrangements, in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report

on "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments", taking into account information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, as well as other relevant intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, and consisting of elements to be provided by the General Assembly in its resolution on fisheries to be adopted at its fifty-eighth session;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", a sub-item entitled "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments".

### Conservation of wildlife

As at 31 December, the 1994 Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora [YUN 1994, p. 951], which entered into force in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 970], had been ratified or acceded to by six States (Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia). The Agreement aimed to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, illegal trafficking in African wildlife.

The fifth meeting of the Governing Council of the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement (Brazzaville, Congo, 22-24 July) adopted decisions on expanding membership and international cooperation among agencies, the UNEP guidelines on MEAs (see p. 1042), and administrative and budgetary matters, including the approval of the 2002-2003 work programme and budget of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force.

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/INF/17] contained status reports on the Great Apes Survival Project and the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/12 on illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna [YUN 2001, p. 968], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [E/CN.15/2002/7] on progress made to implement the resolution, including a preliminary overview of the work of the main relevant organizations, infor-



mation on the involvement of organized criminal groups, and assessments of crime and enforcement efforts. The report also covered illicit access to genetic resources (see p. 1045).

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 37], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2002/30 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 2002/18** without vote [agenda item 14 (c)].

#### Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Aware* of the reported existence of organized criminal groups with transnational operations involving illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and, hence, of the link between transnational organized crime and that form of illicit trafficking,

*Aware also* of the adverse environmental, economic, social and scientific impact of transnational organized criminal activities related to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and of the consequences of access to genetic resources on terms other than those mutually agreed upon, and not in accordance with relevant domestic law and, as appropriate, international agreements,

*Convinced* that both international cooperation and mutual legal assistance are essential to preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna,

*Recalling* the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity and action taken to implement those conventions,

*Recalling also* its resolution 2001/12 of 24 July 2001, entitled "Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna", in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in coordination with other competent entities of the United Nations system, reports analysing domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral legal provisions and other relevant documents, resolutions and recommendations dealing with the prevention, combating and eradication of illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna by organized criminal groups and with illicit access to genetic resources, and to present those reports to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eleventh session,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/12 on illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

2. *Urges* all Member States to cooperate with the Secretary-General and other competent entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including by submitting comments on the report of the Secretary-General, information on relevant na-

tional legislation and practical experiences, relevant statistics on transnational organized crime and information on measures taken, legal proceedings instituted and penalties imposed against such trafficking, so that the report of the Secretary-General may be finalized;

3. *Encourages* all Member States to promote judicial cooperation and mutual technical assistance with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna;

4. *Invites* all Member States to further promote and organize regional networks for information exchange with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and to consider measures to regulate access to genetic resources on mutually agreed terms, in accordance with relevant domestic law and, as appropriate, relevant international agreements;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to finalize his report on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/12 and to submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session.

#### Protection against harmful products and waste

##### Chemical safety

As at 31 December, 72 States and the EC had signed and 36 States and the EC were parties to the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade [YUN 1998, p. 997]. During the year, eight States ratified the Convention, 11 acceded to it and the EC approved it. The Convention was to enter into force 90 days following the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

Pending the entry into force of the Convention, the PIC procedure, which aimed to promote a shared responsibility between exporting and importing countries in protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of certain hazardous chemicals that were traded internationally, was applied voluntarily by Governments.

The ninth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the PIC Procedure (Bonn, 30 September–4 October) [UNEP/FAO/PIC/INC.9/21] considered issues associated with the implementation of the interim PIC procedure, and continued preparations for the Convention's entry into force and its first Conference of the Parties. Delegates made progress on draft financial rules and provisions, procedures for dispute settlement and mechanisms for handling cases of non-compliance. Unresolved issues related to the discontinuation of the interim PIC procedure were forwarded to the first

Conference of the Parties. In accordance with a 2001 recommendation of the Interim Chemical Review Committee [YUN 2001, p. 969], INC decided to include the chemical monocrotophos—an insecticide used in many developing countries, particularly in Asia—in annex III to the Convention, which listed chemicals subject to the PIC procedure.

The 29-member Interim Chemical Review Committee, a subsidiary body established by INC in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 997] to make recommendations on the inclusion of banned and severely restricted chemicals or hazardous pesticide formulations in the PIC procedure, held its third session (Geneva, 17-21 February) [UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.3/19]. The Committee recommended that the chemical dinitro-ortho-cresol (DNOC)—an insecticide, weedkiller and fungicide—and salts common to notifications of the final regulatory actions by the EU and Peru become subject to the interim PIC procedure, along with all six forms of asbestos (actinolite, anthophyllite, tremolite, amosite, crocidolite, chrysotile) and the chemicals Spinox T and Granox TBC—a mixture of fungicides and the highly toxic insecticide Carbofuran.

**Governing Council action.** The Governing Council considered a report [UNEP/GCSS.VII/INF/1 & Add.1.2], submitted in response to its 2001 decision [YUN 2001, p. 969], based on the observations of Governments and other stakeholders to a UNEP questionnaire on the need for a strategic approach to international chemicals management; almost all of the 60 respondents agreed that there was such a need. The report discussed the main issues, opportunities, needs and objectives to be addressed in a strategy in terms of policy; coordination between international bodies and institutions with chemicals programmes, including UNEP; and capacity-building and development cooperation, emphasizing the link between chemical safety and sustainable development.

On 15 February [A/57/25 (dec. SS.VII/3)], the Council decided to develop further a strategic approach to international chemicals management and endorsed the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 [YUN 2001, p. 969] as the foundation of the approach. It requested the Executive Director, in pursuing the decision, to take into account the special circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Together with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and in consultation with Governments, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), GEF and other major agencies responsible for the funding and

delivery of international development cooperation, the Executive Director was asked to identify current or planned actions to advance the sound management of chemicals, with particular reference to the Bahia Declaration. He was also asked to work within IOMC and with IFCS, Governments and others to identify gaps in the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 or in their implementation and suggest remedies for gaps; to identify concrete projects and priorities in the context of a strategic approach, working with key partners such as the secretariats of the Rotterdam (see p. 1062), Stockholm (see p. 1064) and Basel (see p. 1065) Conventions, and IFCS; and to convene, together with IFCS and IOMC and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, an open-ended consultative meeting involving representatives of all stakeholder groups to contribute to the further development of a strategic approach. The Council called on Governments and other actors to make available information, especially on alternatives to hazardous chemicals, technical assistance, information on arrangements for promoting access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, capacity-building and funding necessary to assist developing countries, especially least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to take an active part in the development of the strategic approach, and urged Governments, IOMC, IFCS and others to participate actively in the process. It invited the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821) to endorse the further development of the strategic approach and the Bahia Declaration, urge the active engagement of major agencies, and call on Governments and other relevant actors to implement priority activities. The Executive Director was asked to report in 2003.

**Note by Executive Director.** In response to a 2001 Governing Council decision [YUN 2001, p. 969], the Executive Director presented a December note [UNEP/GC.22/INF/23] on progress in phasing out lead in gasoline. Based on information collected from Governments, phase-out had been completed or initiated in North and Central America, the Caribbean region and Europe, except for two unknowns, as well as in a majority of Asian countries. Australia, New Zealand and all countries in South America had taken or initiated action, but no information could be obtained regarding the situation in most of the Pacific island States. Most countries in Africa had not initiated phase-out action.

#### *Mercury assessment*

Pursuant to a 2001 Governing Council decision [YUN 2001, p. 969], the Executive Director sub-

mitted a November report on the global assessment of mercury and its compounds [UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.1], which presented options to address any significant global impacts of the substance, including measures to reduce and/or eliminate the use, emissions, discharges and losses of mercury and its compounds; steps to improve international cooperation; and the development of a new, binding instrument or use of an existing international binding instrument to address mercury.

During a meeting of UNEP's Global Mercury Assessment Working Group (Geneva, 9-13 September) [UNEP/GC.22/INF/2], the above report was reviewed and finalized, and key findings were identified. It was found that mercury was present throughout the environment and levels had increased considerably since the onset of the industrial age. Exposure to mercury caused significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment worldwide, which could be addressed through a range of actions at the local, national, regional and global levels. Local and regional action to curb its use and impact were not sufficient alone because mercury circulated globally. Mercury continued to be used in less developed regions and was subject to significant international use and commerce. Humans were exposed to mercury primarily through diet, especially fish, but many types of exposure existed for both humans and wildlife. Ways of reducing mercury releases, measures to improve understanding of mercury and international coordination to address the global mercury problem were proposed.

The Working Group concluded that there was sufficient evidence of significant adverse impacts of mercury and mercury compounds globally to warrant international action. It agreed on an outline of possible measures to address the problem at local, regional, national and global levels. Options included measures to reduce and/or eliminate the use, emissions, discharges and losses of mercury and its compounds by substituting products and processes; reducing consumption and the mobilization of new mercury into the biosphere; controlling and monitoring emissions and releases; and mercury waste management. Further options included developing a legally binding treaty, establishing a non-binding, global programme of action, and strengthening cooperation among Governments on information-sharing, risk communication, assessment and related activities. The Working Group recommended immediate measures such as the establishment of contacts with highly vulnerable groups, the provision of technical and financial support to developing countries and countries

with economies in transition, and support for increased research, monitoring and data collection on the health and environmental aspects of mercury and on environmentally friendly alternatives to mercury.

#### *Persistent organic pollutants*

As at 31 December, 24 States were parties to the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) [YUN 2001, p. 971]. During the year, 13 States ratified the Convention, seven acceded to it and two accepted it. The Convention was opened for signature on 23 May 2001 [ibid.] and closed on 22 May 2002 with 151 signatories, including the EC. It would enter into force 90 days after the deposit of its fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain POPs (Geneva, 17-21 June) [UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22] reviewed ongoing international activities relating to the work of the Committee and the situation regarding extrabudgetary funds. It considered secretariat activities, preparation for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and organizational matters. It adopted decisions on the development of reports on DDT and a register of specific exemptions; the evaluation of current and projected releases of chemicals listed in annex C of the Convention; technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of POPs; national implementation plans; a clearing-house mechanism; technical assistance; regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer; effectiveness evaluation; non-compliance; a draft memorandum of understanding with GEF; and administrative and budgetary issues. The Committee established an expert group on best available techniques/practices.

Pursuant to a resolution of the 2001 preparatory meeting for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries [YUN 2001, p. 971], a workshop was held (Vienna, 19-21 September) to consider the possible need for a liability and redress regime for damages associated with POPs in the context of the Stockholm Convention and to provide input into the first Conference of the Parties.

In line with a 1997 Governing Council decision that immediate international action should be initiated to protect human health and the environment through measures to reduce and/or eliminate the emissions and discharges of the 12 POPs [YUN 1997, p. 1065], UNEP Chemicals, part of UNEP's Technology, Industry and Economics Division, published a series of regionally based as-

assessments of persistent toxic substances for the following regions: Antarctica, the Arctic, Central America and the Caribbean, Central and North-East Asia, Eastern and Western South America, Europe, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, North America, Pacific islands, South-East Asia and the Pacific, and sub-Saharan Africa. The reports were financed by GEF, with co-financing from Governments, and were produced within the framework of IOMC.

#### *Hazardous wastes*

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420], which entered into force in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 685], rose to 153, with the accession of Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Djibouti and Samoa. The 1995 amendment to the Convention [YUN 1995, p. 1333], not yet in force, had been ratified, accepted or approved by 35 parties. The 1999 Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1999, p. 998] had 13 signatories at year's end.

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (Geneva, 9-13 December) [UNEP/CHW.6/40] adopted the strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention to 2010 and called for project proposals under the plan. It also adopted technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of biomedical and health-care wastes; waste lead-acid batteries; the full and partial dismantling of ships; and the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and their disposal. Other decisions were related to the 1999 Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and the Protocol on Liability and Compensation [YUN 1999, p. 998]; regional centres for training and technology transfer; annexes VII-IX of the Convention; implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (see p. 907) related to hazardous waste and other wastes; capacity-building; the establishment of a mechanism to promote implementation and compliance; illegal traffic in hazardous wastes; bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements; the preparation of technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of POPs as waste; international cooperation and cooperation with WTO; sustainable partnership for the environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile phones; partnership with environmental NGOs and with the industry and business sectors; the work programme of the Convention's Open-

ended Working Group; follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and administrative, financial and other matters.

#### *Cleaner production and sustainable consumption patterns*

UNEP held its seventh International High-level Seminar on Cleaner Production (Prague, Czech Republic, 28-30 April) to evaluate the progress of the initiatives of UNEP's Cleaner Production branch, assess obstacles and opportunities for further development and recommend future cleaner production activities. During the seminar, UNEP launched its life-cycle initiative, which brought together industry leaders, academics and policy makers to encourage the development and dissemination of practical tools for evaluating opportunities, risks and trade-offs associated with products over their life cycles.

A discussion paper on promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, presented by the Executive Director in December [UNEP/GC.22/8/Add.2], stated that UNEP was helping to build a framework for action in which producers and consumers could move together towards sustainable development. UNEP also intended to continue to help improve production processes; accelerate product design innovations; promote reliable, science-based tools for assessing the environmental impacts of products throughout their life cycles; and encourage environmentally and socially sensitive purchasing by individuals, industries and public institutions.

#### *Other matters*

##### *Environmental law*

Under the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III), adopted by the Governing Council in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 972], the Executive Director convened the Global Judges Symposium on Sustainable Development and the Role of Law (Johannesburg, 18-20 August) [UNEP/GC.22/INF/24] as a parallel event of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821). The meeting aimed to foster a better informed and more active judiciary that would advance the rule of law in the area of sustainable development through information-sharing and awareness enrichment, especially among judges from different regions of the world and through follow-up activities. Adopted by the Symposium and annexed to the report were the Johannesburg Principles on the Role of Law and Sustainable Development, in which the judges agreed to



strengthen the application of existing laws to protect the environment and the rights of people to pursue a sustainable future.

A November report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.22/3/Add.2] on the implementation of Montevideo Programme III described UNEP activities to implement the Johannesburg Principles (above); enhance the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (see p. 1037); meet the commitment set out in the Summit's Plan of Implementation (see p. 821) to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and without access to basic sanitation; strengthen the international regime on benefit-sharing of genetic resources; and promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption. The report provided information on the status of international environmental conventions and protocols.

#### *Occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories*

In response to Governing Council decisions adopted in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 999] and 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 972], the Executive Director submitted a January note on the preparation of a report on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [UNEP/GCSS.VII/4/Add.3]. In view of the continuing unrest in the region, UNEP conducted a desk study to supplement and update information received from the Centre for Environmental Studies and Resource Management. The Executive Director requested information from both the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israel on the environmental situation. The PA provided information, but Israel informed the Executive Director that it was unable to submit a complete response prior to the Council's seventh special session in February. Both parties invited the Executive Director to visit the region to discuss matters of cooperation and the implementation of the 1999 and 2001 Council decisions.

On 15 February [A/57/25 (dec. SS.VII/7)], the Governing Council, taking note of the above-mentioned note, requested the Executive Director to visit the area as soon as possible with a view to establishing a framework for and modalities of the requested study; designate a team of UNEP experts to prepare a desk study outlining the state of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to identify major areas of environmental damage requiring urgent attention; and undertake field studies, in order to propose remedial measures to improve the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He was urged to coordinate UNEP's activities in the area, including the implementation of the current decision; follow up on the findings of the UNEP study; and assist the Pales-

tinian Ministry of Environmental Affairs to address urgent environmental needs. All parties concerned were invited to cooperate with the Executive Director to implement the decision; he was requested to report in 2003.

A later report [UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.6] stated that, in March, the Executive Director presented the Council's decision to the ministerial segment of the League of Arab States' fourteenth session (Beirut, Lebanon, 27-28 March), and invited all member States to cooperate with UNEP in its efforts to achieve a scientifically sound desk study with a forward-looking approach. The Executive Director visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel (13-16 July) and met with environmental officials from the PA and Israel, as well as the President of the PA and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. During the visit, a framework for the desk study was agreed with both parties. A preparatory UNEP expert mission to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories took place from 15 to 22 August, and UNEP held an advisory meeting on the desk study on 23 August. The UNEP desk study team, consisting of both in-house experts and those contracted from UNEP's collaborating centres and other international environmental institutes, visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel (1-11 October), covering the topics of water quantity and water and soil quality; waste water; solid and hazardous waste; environmental administration; and land use and biodiversity. Sites visited included solid waste dumps, waste-water treatment plants, rangeland rehabilitation projects and sites where the environmental infrastructure was damaged as a result of the conflict. UNEP emphasized that the desk study should make clear recommendations on how to improve the environment in a way that would be beneficial to the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to the region as a whole. The recommendations of the desk study team were annexed to the report.

#### *International Year of Ecotourism*

The International Year of Ecotourism, 2002, proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 53/200 [YUN 1998, p. 1000], was launched on 28 January. A report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO/OMT) [A/58/96] presented the activities of WTO/OMT, UNEP and other international organizations in preparation for and during the Year, and synthesized the activities undertaken by Governments. Preparatory meetings were held for Africa, the Americas, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe, the Middle East and North Af-

rica, and Asia and the Pacific. WTO/OMT organized, jointly with UNEP, a web conference on sustainable development of ecotourism in April. UNEP organized or participated in preparatory events involving over 3,000 stakeholders. WTO/OMT participated in ecotourism activities or workshops at various tourism and trade fairs and supported various international, regional and national events. Both entities issued special publications. Governments set up global awareness-raising campaigns on ecotourism or responsible tourism, established national committees for the Year, supported the ecotourism private sector, and a minority of them voted special legislation on ecotourism. In all, 48 countries defined, or were defining, a national strategy or plan for ecotourism development. Recommendations were made for follow-up activities by WTO/OMT and UNEP.

The World Ecotourism Summit (Quebec City, Canada, 19-22 May) was the principal event marking the Year. The Summit adopted the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism, which was annexed to a 22 August note from Jordan to the Secretary-General [A/57/343]. The Declaration, which recognized that ecotourism embraced the principles of sustainable tourism and that it contributed actively to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, set a preliminary agenda and made recommendations for the development of ecotourism activities in the context of sustainable development.

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## Human settlements

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### **Follow-up to the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the 2001 General Assembly special session**

In August [A/57/271], the Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 56/205 [YUN 2001, p. 981], reported on follow-up to the Assembly's twenty-fifth (2001) special session [*ibid.*, p. 973] to review and appraise the implementation of the Habitat Agenda [YUN 1996, p. 994], adopted by the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) [*ibid.*, p. 992]. As decided by the Assembly in resolution 56/206 [YUN 2001, p. 987], the Commission on Human Settlements was transformed, from 1 January 2002, into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The UN-Habitat secretariat serviced the Governing Council and was the focal point for human settlements within the UN system.

The UN-Habitat Executive Director headed the secretariat and was responsible for the management of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. The World Urban Forum (a merger of the International Forum on Urban Poverty and the World Urban Forum) [YUN 2001, p. 985] focused on international cooperation in shelter and urban development and served as an expert advisory body to the UN-Habitat Executive Director. The first biennial session of the Forum (Nairobi, 29 April-3 May) [HSP/GC/19/2/Add.1], organized by UN-Habitat in collaboration with various Habitat Agenda partners, had as its main themes sustainable urban development and cities without slums. Partnership implementation proposals elaborated by the Forum were to be submitted to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821), and the Forum's recommendations were to be considered by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in 2003.

The Secretary-General reported that the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities established in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 990], at its fifth meeting in Nairobi in April, stressed that local authorities were instrumental in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development (see p. 953); local authorities and their associations, particularly in developing countries, had concrete solutions to development challenges, but the implementation of local action plans was often hampered by lack of financial resources and institutional support, a concern that was to be transmitted to the Summit. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was working with UN-Habitat to establish a Habitat Agenda focal point within selected UNDP country offices. The Regional Technical Cooperation Division, as the operational arm of UN-Habitat, was increasingly performing normative activities in connection with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of significantly improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, [YUN 2000, p. 52]; its portfolio included projects in 61 developing and transition countries in addition to substantive advisory services for project formulation and development. UN-Habitat encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to disseminate the 2001 Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium [YUN 2001, p. 974], adopted at the Assembly's twenty-fifth special session, and other major UN policy documents in order to reformulate their objectives into national and local policy. The report also described UN-Habitat's participation in and contribution to the International Conference on Financing for Development and other intergovernmental processes.

The Secretary-General encouraged Governments and their Habitat Agenda partners to report regularly to UN-Habitat on the adequacy and usefulness of settlements and shelter information so that it might assess the quality of the information and the effectiveness of sharing mechanisms. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with other UN entities and all Habitat Agenda partners, should continue to develop an inclusive process for all Governments, local authorities and their Agenda partners to evaluate and report on progress in implementing the Agenda, the 2001 Declaration and the MDG target on slums. Member States were encouraged to strengthen and institutionalize National Habitat Committees as broad-based platforms for national- and local-level preparation and implementation of plans of action based on the Agenda, the 2001 Declaration and the MDG target on slums.

#### **Strengthening UN-Habitat**

An August report of the Secretary-General [A/57/272], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 56/206 [YUN 2001, p. 987], summarized progress made in strengthening the status of UN-Habitat's Governing Council and the adoption by UN-Habitat of development goals and norms current to its field of responsibility to assist in implementing the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and in achieving the MDG target on slums. The work of the Governing Council and especially UN-Habitat had been strengthened by the formalization of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in resolution 56/206, as an intergovernmental body to guide the Council's work during its inter-sessional period (see p. 1031). UN-Habitat had revised its medium-term plan and strengthened its expertise to play a central role in carrying out the UN mission of alleviating poverty through slum upgrading throughout the world, with the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance [YUN 2000, p. 995] as primary entry points. The UN-Habitat Training and Capacity-building Branch concentrated on improving the knowledge, skills and attitudes of local government officials and civil society partners, and on strengthening effectiveness, inclusiveness and transparency to achieve the MDG target on slums. A special effort was being made to expand the networks of partner capacity-building institutions and to maximize the dissemination and cascading of new methods and tools through sub-regional workshops and other activities. There was a stronger focus by the Urban Secretariat Branch on monitoring and research to fill a critical knowledge gap and to provide information

for policy formulation and informed participation; the Branch prepared UN-Habitat's two flagship reports, *The State of the World's Cities* and *Global Report on Human Settlements*, in alternating years. The Global Urban Observatory and best practices programmes of the Urban Secretariat Branch had been reorganized and strengthened. The Urban Economy and Finance Branch implemented programmes to develop and strengthen housing finance systems and institutions and enhance productivity in the urban informal sector. UN-Habitat had reoriented its operational activities to support its normative functions related to the MDG target on slums and to help enlarge workable slum-upgrading solutions, and was committed to strengthening its global programmes.

Regarding the UN-Habitat Foundation, a concerted effort was made to solicit more general-purpose contributions, which led to a doubling of those contributions in 2001 to \$7.3 million. UN-Habitat was undertaking an extensive review to design a new approach towards its financial base and work programme. On 12 March, UN-Habitat presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives a draft proposal for the revitalization of the Foundation through partnerships with international development banks and other finance institutions.

UN-Habitat would play a more forward-looking role in addressing new challenges, promoting new partnerships and facilitating contacts and cooperation, including information exchange and policy support to Habitat Agenda partners at the international, national and local levels. It would also consolidate progress achieved in coordinating and promoting stronger roles for local authorities and major groups of civil society in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. By its participation in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, UN-Habitat further enhanced its capacity to coordinate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to forge inter-agency partnerships on shelter and sustainable human settlements development. UN-Habitat also enhanced its participation in the United Nations Development Group. As task manager of chapters 7 and 21 of Agenda 21 [YUN 1992, p. 672] concerning, respectively, sustainable settlements and waste management, UN-Habitat participated in the biannual meetings of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development. Leading up to the World Summit (see p. 821), UN-Habitat prepared two reports on progress made in the implementation of chapters 7 and 21; the reports were merged with those of other UN system task managers to form the

Secretary-General's report on the implementation of Agenda 21 [E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/7] (see p. 821).

The report recommended adequate institutional and financial support to make the funding and activities of UN-Habitat more predictable. It encouraged Member States to support UN-Habitat's efforts to intensify dialogue among Governments at all levels and Habitat Agenda partners on issues related to effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities, within the legal framework of each country, in support of the Habitat Agenda, the 2001 Declaration and the MDG target on slums.

#### Coordinated implementation of Habitat Agenda

In May [E/2002/48], the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/22 [YUN 2001, p. 982] on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The report described the transformation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements by the General Assembly in resolution 56/206 [YUN 2001, p. 987] into the secretariat of UN-Habitat, with effect from 1 January 2002, and of the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of UN-Habitat on the same date. By the same resolution, the Assembly had also decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives should serve as the Governing Council's intersessional subsidiary body.

The report stated that one of the central functions of UN-Habitat—to provide advisory services and implement human settlements programmes at the request of member States—was severely limited by the decreasing flow of resources available for technical cooperation and was characterized by an increasing proportion of tied contributions. Efforts should be made to enhance the operational role of UN-Habitat for a more productive and effective collaboration with the agencies; to diversify sources of financing for technical cooperation projects and programmes; and to identify new avenues for inter-agency collaboration. Strengthening the UN-Habitat Foundation would make the funding and activities of UN-Habitat more predictable and prevent its programmes and projects from experiencing excessive and disruptive volatility. A slum-upgrading facility was being designed as a global source of seed capital for investment in housing and infrastructure development, in support of the MDG target on slums, and would complement the work of the Foundation by leveraging public and private resources at global and national levels. UN-Habitat should promote the recognition of cities and local authorities and their world associations as UN partners and enhance the dialogue

among Habitat Agenda partners and Governments at all levels on all issues related to effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities. It should also strengthen its support to NGOs in their advocacy work and, in particular, strengthen operational partnerships with selected civil society coalitions and identify new strategies for the involvement of the private sector in public-private partnerships for slum upgrading and sustainable human settlements development.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 41], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2002/38** [draft: E/2002/L.30/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 13 (d)].

#### Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session,

*Recalling also* all the relevant resolutions on human settlements, in particular General Assembly resolutions 3327(XXIX) of 16 December 1974 and 32/162 of 19 December 1977, and further stressing the importance of General Assembly resolutions 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001,

*Recalling further* the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

*Recognizing* that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels, to enhance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant goals of the Millennium Declaration, particularly in developing countries,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so to increase their financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and also invites international financial institutions, as appropriate, to assist developing countries in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, while giving due consideration to marginalized groups;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to continue to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, including through promoting partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners, to empower them, within the legal framework, and according to the conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in shelter provision and in sustainable human settlements development;



3. *Invites* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to pursue the establishment, within the context of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System as a collaborative effort to allow for better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions taken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

4. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to strengthen its collaboration with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the United Nations Development Group in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its session in 2003 a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/57/540 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 57/275** without vote [agenda item 95].

#### **Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3327(XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/38 of 26 July 2002,

*Recalling* the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,

*Emphasizing* the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

*Acknowledging* the holding of the first session of the World Urban Forum, a non-legislative technical forum in which experts are able to exchange views in years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) does not meet, and the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat,

*Welcoming* the efforts made by UN-Habitat to forge partnerships with other United Nations funds and programmes and with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank,

*Recognizing* that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision of UN-Habitat and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for

guiding international cooperation in respect of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development,

*Conscious* of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

*Recognizing* the need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the new millennium to ensure timely, effective and concrete results in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, particularly in developing countries,

*Reiterating* the call to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to increase her efforts to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective, as set out in resolution 3327(XXIX), of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure-development programmes and housing-finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), on the strengthening of UN-Habitat, and on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

1. *Underlines* the commitments made by Governments to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and to the goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

2. *Underlines also* the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the commitment to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, and requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to support developing countries in implementing the targets in order to increase access to clean water, sanitation and adequate shelter;

3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen and institutionalize national Habitat committees and other mechanisms, as appropriate, as broad-based platforms for the preparation and implementation of their plans of action based on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

4. *Urges* all countries to strengthen and mainstream shelter and human settlements development activities in their development planning frameworks;

5. *Recognizes* that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementa-

tion of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and stresses that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support the Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of requisite resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance, at all levels of policy-making and in the context of sustainable development, of giving high priority to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, including achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, particularly in developing countries;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to further strengthen her efforts to make the Cities Alliance initiative an effective means for the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, namely, adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

8. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, including through promoting partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners so as to empower them, within the legal framework and according to the conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in shelter provision and in sustainable human settlements development;

9. *Reiterates* the invitation to Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to facilitate the dissemination of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

10. *Also reiterates* the agreement by Governments to intensify dialogue where possible, inter alia, through the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, on all issues related to effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in conformity with the legal framework and policies of each country;

11. *Encourages* Governments and their Habitat Agenda partners to evaluate and report to UN-Habitat on their implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

12. *Welcomes* increased cooperation between UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme, and notes with interest the envisaged placement of locally recruited UN-Habitat programme managers in selected United Nations Development Programme offices in recipient countries, in consultation with the relevant Governments;

13. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to increase cooperation in and strengthen coordination of their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities, in order to promote the implementation of the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 and the

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to supporting sustainable development;

14. *Reiterates* the invitation to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to implement, in accordance with paragraph 66 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the establishment of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System to allow better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions taken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

15. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to further support the implementation of the Water for African Cities programme, as requested by the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

16. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director to strengthen UN-Habitat, and encourages her to continue such efforts;

17. *Invites* Governments and relevant international institutions and agencies to increase their support to UN-Habitat in order to enhance its capacity to function as a fully fledged United Nations programme;

18. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invites Governments that are in a position to do so, and their Habitat Agenda partners, to increase their financial contributions to the Foundation in a predictable manner;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi in an effective manner;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a consolidated report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly".

### UN Human Settlements Programme

A report of the UN-Habitat Executive Director [HSP/GC/19/2] summarized the Programme's 2001-2002 activities. UN-Habitat's priorities fell under three programme objectives: to promote the adoption and implementation of appropriate residential tenure systems and shelter development and upgrading policies; to promote the adoption and implementation of inclusive, transparent, participatory and accountable urban governance systems; and to enhance international cooperation in shelter and sustainable human settlements development. The work programme was implemented through the subprogrammes of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.

During the period under review, the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, an advocacy instru-

ment launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 995], saw national launches in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Jamaica, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Senegal; an organizational agreement with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was secured for prospective regional and national launches in the Arab States; and a regional committee for Latin America and the Caribbean was set up. Launches in Durban (South Africa), Manila (Philippines) and Mumbai (India) were being expanded through the Slum Upgrading Frameworks project, which was supported by a grant from members of the Cities Alliance (see p. 1073) and implemented by the urban poor, NGOs and local governments in the three cities. UN-Habitat's Shelter Branch carried out the inception phase of the collaborative Nairobi Slum Upgrading programme. It also initiated the Cities Without Slums subregional programme for Eastern and Southern Africa, which would support the efforts of member States to implement urban upgrading as a tool to attain the MDG target on slums; Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were participating in the initial phase.

The Shelter Branch organized conferences in Ghana and Turkey to exchange information and experiences related to housing policy and development. The Branch, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other relevant organizations, supported efforts to monitor the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, and planned to finalize a framework and modalities for a monitoring system in 2003. UN-Habitat and OHCHR published a report entitled "Housing rights legislation: review of international and national legal instruments", as well as other related reports. The Shelter Branch also produced a normative framework for security of tenure, contributed to policy papers on various topics related to secure tenure, and produced a report on women's rights to land and housing and the implementation of those rights in East Africa. It provided advice to technical cooperation projects in those countries that adopted the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe [YUN 1999, p. 397] and in Angola, Mozambique and Rwanda. Work in post-conflict societies included research, technical advice, capacity-building and networking activities regarding land, housing and property rights.

Pilot projects of the Managing Water for African Cities programme had influenced interventions to reduce the negative environmental impact of urbanization on freshwater resources in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Accra (Ghana), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Dakar (Senegal), Johannes-

burg (South Africa), Lusaka (Zambia) and Nairobi (Kenya). Consultations were under way for a similar programme in Asia. UN-Habitat was implementing the Sustainable Solid Waste Management in African Countries programme, which contributed to the development of a regional capacity for solid waste management across Africa. Guidelines on introducing value-based water education were produced in 2002 and were being used to train educators in six African countries; training of trainers had been completed in Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and Zambia.

The Global Campaign on Urban Governance, launched in 2000 to support sustainable human settlements development in urban areas by eradicating poverty through improved urban governance [YUN 2000, p. 995], was launched at the national level in the Jamaica and the Philippines in 2002. In Nigeria, project proposals were developed on municipal finance, local leadership training, gender and governance, participatory budgeting and safer cities. Campaign activities continued in Latin America and the Caribbean and in South-East Europe. Preparations with ESCWA were under way for regional campaign activity in the Arab States and preparatory activities were ongoing for a joint campaign launch in Uganda in 2003. National campaigns and action plan follow-up activities were in various stages of preparation in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cuba, East Africa, Fiji, Indonesia, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and West Asia. The Good Governance Index concept paper was discussed during the first session of the World Urban Forum (see p. 1067); an expert group meeting in November further developed the index.

Safer Cities projects supporting the development and implementation of local crime prevention strategies were ongoing in Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, and were in preparation in Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Mali and the Philippines. UN-Habitat was supporting the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in re-establishing local governance structures and rebuilding property registration systems; the protection of housing and property rights was transferred to UNMIK at the end of 2002 after the establishment of the Housing Property Directorate of Kosovo. A project was formulated to ensure the long-term settlement and integration of the refugee population in Serbia and Montenegro through the provision of adequate housing and the promotion of local development. The main spheres of cooperation between UN-Habitat and Serbia and Montenegro,

as stipulated in a memorandum of understanding signed in 2002, were local governance; urban and municipal management; housing policies and development; urban infrastructure and services; sectoral data and information systems; and capacity-building and awareness-raising.

The Urban Management Programme, a technical assistance initiative of UNDP, UN-Habitat, the World Bank and other bilateral partners, undertook 20 new city consultations in its offices and anchor institutions in various regions. Phase IV of the Programme (2001-2005) was launched and activities were initiated for handing over programme activities to the anchor institutions by the end of 2003. A report was prepared in 2002 on Urban Management Programme Phase III (1997-2002) activities and guidelines for pro-poor city development strategies.

As part of UN-Habitat's role as lead agency in monitoring the MDG target on slums [YUN 2000, p. 51], an expert group meeting on urban indicators to define "secure tenure" and "slums" for global data collection was held in Nairobi. The Local Indicators Facility project to build the capacity of cities to monitor progress in slum upgrading, funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, began in August.

In May, at the World Urban Forum (see p. 1067), a subregional programme for slum upgrading was launched for Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. An initiative financed by the Global Environment Facility (see p. 1039) on sustainable land-use planning, integrated land and water management for disaster preparedness and vulnerability reduction in the Limpopo River basin was launched in Mozambique. Further funding was received for ongoing projects in Burundi, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and South Africa. New initiatives were launched and proposals were put forth for projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Somalia. Cities Alliance initiatives were ongoing in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique and Nigeria. The Settlements Rehabilitation Programme in northern Iraq was improving the living conditions of internally displaced people and the most vulnerable groups within the context of a sustainable human settlements framework. Through its office in Fukuoka, Japan, UN-Habitat provided major support to communities affected by the civil war in Afghanistan, implementing a total budget of \$12 million in 2002; other project proposals were approved under the secretariat for the Urban Management Programme. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat was stepping up inter-municipal

consultations in Brazil for the settlement-upgrading component within the Cities Alliance, and was collaborating on land market studies and municipal practices. In El Salvador, the Cities Alliance project completed studies on upgrading and metropolitan infrastructure, leading to the formulation of a loan package. The Cities Alliance programme for Central America held a regional meeting in San José, Costa Rica, where sectoral ministers agreed on a collaborative platform of regional project proposals. A proposal for the Municipality of Cali, Colombia, was finalized. Operational activities in 2002 included projects in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama.

**Appointment.** On 23 July, the General Assembly elected Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (United Republic of Tanzania) as Executive Director of UN-Habitat for a four-year term beginning on 1 September 2002 and ending on 31 August 2006 (**decision 56/324**), following her nomination by the Secretary-General [A/56/111].

#### **Committee of Permanent Representatives**

A note by the UN-Habitat secretariat [HSP/GC/19/3] contained information on the 2002 meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which, as a result of Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/48 [YUN 2001, p. 984], functioned as an intersessional subsidiary body of UN-Habitat's Governing Council. In five meetings (7 February, 12 March, 23 May, 13 September, 4 December), the Committee discussed, among other things, proposed revisions to the UN-Habitat 2002-2005 medium-term plan (see p. 1074); the relevant decisions of the fifty-sixth (2001) session of the General Assembly and a progress report on the revitalization of UN-Habitat; preparations for, participation in and the outcome of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (see p. 821); the recommendations and outcome of the World Urban Forum (see p. 1067), which would hold its second session in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2004; the implementation of UN-Habitat's work plan; strengthening of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; and preparations for the nineteenth (2003) session of the Governing Council.

#### **World Summit on Sustainable Development**

A report of the Executive Director [HS/GC/19/2/Add.2] discussed the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821) related to UN-Habitat and the Habitat Agenda, UN-Habitat's activities during the Summit, and follow-up. The Summit's Plan of Implementation referred to UN-Habitat's work in its sections on poverty eradication, changing unsustainable



consumption and production patterns, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, sustainable development in Africa, implementation and the institutional framework for sustainable development. Of special interest to UN-Habitat were commitments to halve the number of people without access to drinking water and sanitation by 2015; improve the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020; support African countries in efforts to implement the Habitat Agenda [YUN 1996, p. 994] and the 1996 Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements [ibid., p. 993]; strengthen UN-Habitat, together with UNEP, UNDP and UNCTAD, in capacity-building to implement Agenda 21; and enhance the role of local authorities and partnerships at all levels, as called for in the Habitat Agenda. The Coalition for Sustainable Urbanization, developed by UN-Habitat with Habitat Agenda partners, was formally announced and launched during the Summit. Components of the Coalition included the Water for Asian Cities partnership and operational partnerships with global associations of local authorities for strengthening local capacities for sustainable urbanization. Such partnerships included the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Partnership for Local Capacity Development.

UN-Habitat's involvement in the Summit process resulted in the development of a policy framework for sustainable urbanization; enhanced recognition of the role of cities and other human settlements for sustainable development; and the development of implementation initiatives with concrete work plans, agreed responsibilities and funding commitments, including the Coalition for Sustainable Urbanization. A broad-based follow-up plan comprised follow-up on the Summit's political outcome for UN-Habitat, especially the recognition of "adequate shelter" as a thematic priority and "framework for action" at par with the other WEHAB areas (water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity) (see p. 1036); administrative and managerial follow-up to enable UN-Habitat to fulfil its Summit mandates and commitments; and operational follow-up, including the further development and implementation of the Coalition for Sustainable Urbanization and its component initiatives.

#### **Medium-term plan (2002-2005)**

A note by the UN-Habitat secretariat [HSP/GC/19/3] contained information on the deliberations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposed revisions to the UN-Habitat 2002-2005 medium-term plan. The revisions included the introduction of a new subprogramme on financing of human settlements; the merging of

the subprogrammes on adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development into a new subprogramme entitled shelter and sustainable human settlements development; and the creation of subprogrammes on monitoring the Habitat Agenda, regional and technical cooperation, and financing human settlements. The Committee established an open-ended working group to debate the proposed revisions. The revised 2002-2005 medium-term plan was approved by the General Assembly in **resolution 57/282** (see p. 1393).

#### **OIOS review**

In October, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the eighth annual Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) report [A/57/451], which included UN-Habitat audit information and covered activities during the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002.

An audit of the settlement rehabilitation project in northern Iraq, which assessed the management of contracts for the construction of housing and other facilities required to resettle internally displaced persons, found that the procedures for assessing liquidated damages to contractors were inconsistent and that there were instances where applicable damages were not charged at all. OIOS also found that construction contracts contained a currency adjustment clause that exposed UN-Habitat to significant currency risk and recommended deleting the clause from the contracts. OIOS noted that the proposed delegation of procurement authority, set at \$1 million, was excessive, given the project's needs, and recommended keeping it at the existing limit of \$600,000. Furthermore, OIOS was concerned that appropriate procurement systems and procedures had not been fully established. UN-Habitat accepted the recommendations and had taken steps to implement them.

### **UN Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation**

#### **Biennial financial audit**

In July [A/57/5/Add.8], the UN Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly the financial report and audited financial statements of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the 2000-2001 biennium. Allocations and expenditures in respect of project activities and programme support cost activities amounted to \$29 million and \$23 million, respectively, leaving an unexpended allocation of

\$6 million. The Board found that the presentation of financial statements for 2000-2001 had improved, but resulted in a restatement of accounts. From a sample of 20 operationally completed projects, 10 had not been financially closed as at 31 December 2001, which could result in charging an account of an operationally closed project for expenditures pertaining to other ongoing projects. Of 321 evaluation activities conducted by regional offices, 121 reports (38 per cent) were not available at UN-Habitat's monitoring and evaluation unit, and substantive offices did not have the required reports on file. UN-Habitat in northern Iraq had no banking services

available, lacked delegated authority and duly designated certifying and approving officers, experienced an occasional shortage of funds and delays in payments, had inaccuracies and delays in financial reporting, and did not comply with the provisions of the UN Procurement Manual in respect of establishing and verifying the contractor's profile. The Board made recommendations to improve compliance with the UN-Habitat Technical Cooperation Manual and the UN Procurement Manual; to maintain records and documentation for projects; and to improve the financial management of UN-Habitat's operations in northern Iraq.