

Chapter XI

Children, youth and ageing persons

In 2002, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to work with its partners to ensure that every child was cared for, nurtured and protected early in life; was fully immunized and received essential nutrients; was helped to avoid contracting HIV/AIDS; was protected from harm, abuse and violence, including war; and that all children completed their education.

The General Assembly convened its twenty-seventh special session on children (New York, 8-10 May) and adopted "A world fit for children", an outcome document consisting of a declaration reaffirming participants' commitments to act together for the benefit of children; a review of progress made in achieving the goals of the 1990 World Summit for Children; and a plan of action. For the first time in the history of UN meetings, the special session included more than 600 children as delegates and active participants.

UNICEF began work on the five organizational priorities established in its 2002-2005 medium term strategic plan: girls' education; fighting HIV/AIDS; integrated early childhood development; immunization "plus"; and improved protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination. In 2002, UNICEF's Executive Board held two regular sessions in January and September and its annual session in June, adopting 19 decisions.

The two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, entered into force on 18 January and 12 February, respectively (see p. 637).

In 2002, the United Nations continued its efforts to strengthen the implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. In December, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to prepare national reviews and action plans on youth employment and to involve youth organizations and young people in the process.

The Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April) adopted a Political Declaration by which participants reaffirmed the commitment made during the first World Assembly in 1982 to improve the lives of older persons. It also adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, containing recommen-

dations for action in three priority areas: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments for older persons.

Children

General Assembly special session

The General Assembly held its twenty-seventh special session from 8 to 10 May to review progress made in achieving the goals of the 1990 World Summit for Children [YUN 1990, p. 797], as decided by the Assembly in resolution 51/186 [YUN 1996, p. 1083]. It adopted an outcome document, "A world fit for children"—a rigorous plan with time-bound commitments for promoting healthy lives, providing quality basic education, combating HIV/AIDS and protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence—comprising a Declaration and Plan of Action (**resolution S-27/2**) (see p. 1169). Participants pledged to complete the unfinished agenda of the 1990 Summit and to achieve other goals and objectives, particularly those of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], and reaffirmed their obligation to promote and protect children's rights, acknowledging the legal standards set by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, contained in Assembly resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p. 560]. The Plan of Action was a commitment to ensure a world where children received the best possible start in life, had access to quality basic education and developed their individual capacities. Governments set priority actions and targets for 2010, as benchmarks towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The session brought together 69 world leaders, 190 national delegations, 1,700 representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and others, and included, for the first time in the history of UN meetings, more than 600 children as delegates and active participants. Some 400 children from 154 countries participated in The Children's Forum, which met from 5 to 7 May.

In other action, the Assembly, on 10 May, approved the report of the Credentials Committee [A/S-27/18] (**resolution S-27/1**). Regarding procedural matters, it established and elected the officers of the Ad Hoc Committee of Whole (**decision S-27/15**), which held two meetings (8-10 May) [A/S-27/19/Rev.1 & Corr.1,2] to hear representatives of delegations, UN system entities and NGOs and to consider the draft outcome document; appointed Credentials Committee members (**decision S-27/11**) and round-table chairpersons (**decision S-27/16**); selected its President (**decision S-27/12**), Vice-Presidents (**decision S-27/13**) and Chairmen of the Main Committees (**decision S-27/14**); made organizational arrangements for the special session (**decision S-27/21**); and adopted its agenda (**decision S-27/23**). On 8 May, the Assembly decided that representatives of eight NGOs could make statements in the plenary debate (**decision S-27/22**).

(For information on the preparatory process for the session, see p. 1181.)

In an opening statement to the session [A/S-27/PV.1], the Secretary-General said that there was no issue more unifying, urgent or universal as the welfare of the world's children. He stated that all children had the right to grow up free of poverty and hunger; receive a quality education; be protected from infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS; grow up on a clean and healthy planet, with access to safe drinking water; and live free from the threat of war, abuse and exploitation. Adults had failed to uphold many of those rights. However, leaders had pledged, in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49], to reverse the list of failures. Addressing the adult participants, the Secretary-General said that children in every land had a right to expect them to turn their words into action and to build a world fit for children.

Round-table discussions. In accordance with Assembly **resolution 56/259** (see p. 1182), three round-table discussions were held on the theme "Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade"—round table 1 (8 May) [A/S-27/20]; round table 2 (9 May) [A/S-27/21]; round table 3 (10 May) [A/S-27/22]. Issues discussed included resources needed to achieve the special session targets and for poverty eradication; children's right to education; children's health and nutrition; the threat of HIV/AIDS; children and armed conflict; monitoring implementation of the session's goals; the importance of listening to children; the need to combat child exploitation and abuse; the special needs of Africa; the protection of children's rights; and regional and international cooperation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 May [meeting 6], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole [A/S-27/19/Rev.1 & Corr.1,2], adopted **resolution S-27/2** without vote [agenda item 10].

A world fit for children

The General Assembly

Adopts the document entitled "A world fit for children" annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

A world fit for children

I. Declaration

1. Eleven years ago, at the World Summit for Children, world leaders made a joint commitment and issued an urgent, universal appeal to give every child a better future.

2. Since then, much progress has been made, as documented in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "We the Children". Millions of young lives have been saved, more children than ever are in school, more children are actively involved in decisions concerning their lives and important treaties have been concluded to protect children. However, these achievements and gains have been uneven, and many obstacles remain, particularly in developing countries. A brighter future for all children has proved elusive, and overall gains have fallen short of national obligations and international commitments.

3. We, the heads of State and Government and representatives of States participating in the special session of the General Assembly on children, reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, are determined to seize this historic opportunity to change the world for and with children. Accordingly, we reaffirm our commitment to complete the unfinished agenda of the World Summit for Children and to address other emerging issues vital to the achievement of the longer-term goals and objectives endorsed at recent major United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the United Nations Millennium Declaration, through national action and international cooperation.

4. We reaffirm our obligation to take action to promote and protect the rights of each child—every human being below the age of 18 years, including adolescents. We are determined to respect the dignity and to secure the well-being of all children. We acknowledge that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally embraced human rights treaty in history, and the Optional Protocols thereto, contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children. We also recognize the importance of other international instruments relevant for children.

5. We stress our commitment to create a world fit for children, in which sustainable human development, taking into account the best interests of the child, is founded on principles of democracy, equality, non-discrimination, peace and social justice and the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights, including the right to development.

6. We recognize and support parents and families or, as the case may be, legal guardians as the primary caretakers of children, and we will strengthen their capacity to provide optimum care, nurturing and protection.

7. We hereby call upon all members of society to join us in a global movement that will help to build a world fit for children by upholding our commitment to the following principles and objectives:

1. **Put children first.** In all actions related to children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

2. **Eradicate poverty: invest in children.** We reaffirm our vow to break the cycle of poverty within a single generation, united in the conviction that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty. Immediate action must be taken to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

3. **Leave no child behind.** Each girl and boy is born free and equal in dignity and rights; therefore, all forms of discrimination affecting children must end.

4. **Care for every child.** Children must get the best possible start in life. Their survival, protection, growth and development in good health and with proper nutrition are the essential foundation of human development. We will make concerted efforts to fight infectious diseases, tackle major causes of malnutrition and nurture children in a safe environment that enables them to be physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally secure, socially competent and able to learn.

5. **Educate every child.** All girls and boys must have access to and complete primary education that is free, compulsory and of good quality as a cornerstone of an inclusive basic education. Gender disparities in primary and secondary education must be eliminated.

6. **Protect children from harm and exploitation.** Children must be protected against any acts of violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination, as well as all forms of terrorism and hostage-taking.

7. **Protect children from war.** Children must be protected from the horrors of armed conflict. Children under foreign occupation must also be protected, in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

8. **Combat HIV/AIDS.** Children and their families must be protected from the devastating impact of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

9. **Listen to children and ensure their participation.** Children and adolescents are resourceful citizens capable of helping to build a better future for all. We must respect their right to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity.

10. **Protect the Earth for children.** We must safeguard our natural environment, with its diversity of life, its beauty and its resources, all of which enhance the quality of life, for present and future generations. We will give every assistance to protect children and minimize the impact of natural disasters and environmental degradation on them.

8. We recognize that the implementation of the present Declaration and the Plan of Action requires not only renewed political will but also the mobilization and allocation of additional resources at both the national and international levels, taking into account the urgency and gravity of the special needs of children.

9. In line with these principles and objectives, we adopt the Plan of Action contained in section III below, confident that together we will build a world in which all girls and boys can enjoy childhood—a time of play and learning, in which they are loved, respected and cherished, their rights are promoted and protected, without discrimination of any kind, in which their safety and well-being are paramount and in which they can develop in health, peace and dignity.

II. Review of progress and lessons learned

10. The World Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children are among the most rigorously monitored and implemented international commitments of the 1990s. Annual reviews were held at the national level and progress reports presented to the General Assembly. A mid-decade review and an extensive global end-decade review were conducted. The latter included high-level regional meetings in Beijing, Berlin, Cairo, Kathmandu and Kingston, which reviewed progress, ensured follow-up to the Summit and other major conferences, promoted renewed commitment to the achievement of the goals of the Summit and guided actions for the future. Complementary efforts by Governments, a wide range of actors participated in the reviews, including children, young people's organizations, academic institutions, religious groups, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, the media, United Nations agencies, donors and major national and international non-governmental organizations.

11. As documented in the end-decade review of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World Summit for Children, the 1990s was a decade of great promises and modest achievements for the world's children. On the positive side, the Summit and the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child helped to accord political priority to children. A record 191 countries ratified, acceded to or signed the Convention. Some 155 countries prepared national programmes of action to implement the Summit goals. Regional commitments were made. International legal provisions and mechanisms strengthened the protection of children. Pursuit of the Summit goals has led to many tangible results for children: this year, 3 million fewer children will die than a decade ago; polio has been brought to the brink of eradication; and, through salt iodization, 90 million newborns are protected every year from a significant loss of learning ability.

12. Yet much more needs to be done. The resources that were promised at the Summit at both the national and international levels have yet to materialize fully. Critical challenges remain: more than 10 million children die each year, although most of those deaths could be prevented; 100 million children are still out of school, 60 per cent of them girls; 150 million children suffer from malnutrition; and HIV/AIDS is spreading with catastrophic speed. There is persistent poverty, exclusion and discrimination, and inadequate

investment in social services. Also, debt burdens, excessive military spending, inconsistent with national security requirements, armed conflict, foreign occupation, hostage-taking and all forms of terrorism, as well as the lack of efficiency in the use of resources, among other factors, can constrain national efforts to combat poverty and to ensure the well-being of children. The childhood of millions continues to be devastated by hazardous and exploitative labour, the sale and trafficking of children, including adolescents, and other forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

13. The experience of the past decade has confirmed that the needs and rights of children must be a priority in all development efforts. There are many key lessons: change is possible—and children's rights are an effective rallying point; policies must address both the immediate factors affecting or excluding groups of children and the wider and deeper causes of inadequate protection and rights violations; targeted interventions that achieve rapid successes need to be pursued, with due attention to sustainability and participatory processes; and efforts should build on children's own resilience and strength. Multisectoral programmes focusing on early childhood and support to families, especially in high-risk conditions, merit special support because they provide lasting benefits for child growth, development and protection.

III. Plan of Action

A. Creating a world fit for children

14. A world fit for children is one in which all children get the best possible start in life and have access to a quality basic education, including primary education that is compulsory and available free to all, and in which all children, including adolescents, have ample opportunity to develop their individual capacities in a safe and supportive environment. We will promote the physical, psychological, spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive and cultural development of children as a matter of national and global priority.

15. The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family. All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist.

16. We also recognize that a considerable number of children live without parental support, such as orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation and children who are incarcerated. Special measures should be taken to support such children and the institutions, facilities and services that care for them, and to build and strengthen children's own abilities to protect themselves.

17. We are determined to promote access by parents, families, legal guardians, caregivers and children themselves to a full range of information and services

to promote child survival, development, protection and participation.

18. Chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs, protecting and promoting the rights of children. It must be tackled on all fronts, from the provision of basic social services to the creation of employment opportunities, from the availability of microcredit to investment in infrastructure, and from debt relief to fair trade practices. Children are hardest hit by poverty because it strikes at the very roots of their potential for development—their growing bodies and minds. Eradication of poverty and the reduction of disparities must therefore be a key objective of development efforts. The goals and strategies agreed upon at recent major United Nations conferences and their follow-ups, in particular the Millennium Summit, provide a helpful international framework for national strategies for poverty reduction to fulfil and protect the rights and promote the well-being of children.

19. We recognize that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy, development and the improvement of living standards around the world. At the same time, there remain serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies. Considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy remain for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as for some countries with economies in transition. Unless the benefits of social and economic development are extended to all countries, a growing number of people in all countries and even entire regions will remain marginalized from the global economy. We must act now in order to overcome those obstacles affecting peoples and countries and to realize the full potential of opportunities presented for the benefit of all, in particular children. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system. Investment in, inter alia, education and training will assist in enabling children to partake of the benefits of the breakthroughs in information and communication technologies. Globalization offers opportunities and challenges. The developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to those challenges and opportunities. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable, and there is a strong need for policies and measures at the national and international levels, formulated and implemented with the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to help them to respond effectively to those challenges and opportunities, giving high priority to achieving progress for children.

20. Discrimination gives rise to a self-perpetuating cycle of social and economic exclusion and undermines children's ability to develop to the fullest. We will make every effort to eliminate discrimination against children, whether rooted in the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national,

ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

21. We will take all measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including equal access to health, education and recreational services, by children with disabilities and children with special needs, to ensure the recognition of their dignity, to promote their self-reliance, and to facilitate their active participation in the community.

22. Indigenous children and children belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups are disproportionately disadvantaged in many countries owing to all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination. We will take appropriate measures to end discrimination, to provide special support, and to ensure equal access to services for these children.

23. The achievement of goals for children, particularly for girls, will be advanced if women fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are empowered to participate fully and equally in all spheres of society and are protected and free from all forms of violence, abuse and discrimination. We are determined to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child throughout her life cycle and to provide special attention to her needs in order to promote and protect all her human rights, including the right to be free from coercion and from harmful practices and sexual exploitation. We will promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, vaccinations, and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, and will mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes.

24. We also recognize the need to address the changing role of men in society, as boys, adolescents and fathers, and the challenges faced by boys growing up in today's world. We will further promote the shared responsibility of both parents in education and in the raising of children, and will make every effort to ensure that fathers have opportunities to participate in their children's lives.

25. It is vital that national goals for children include targets for reducing disparities, in particular those which arise from discrimination on the basis of race, between girls and boys, rural and urban children, wealthy and poor children and those with and without disabilities.

26. A number of environmental problems and trends, such as global warming, ozone layer depletion, air pollution, hazardous wastes, exposure to hazardous chemicals and pesticides, inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene, unsafe drinking water and food and inadequate housing, need to be addressed to ensure the health and well-being of children.

27. Adequate housing fosters family integration, contributes to social equity and strengthens the feeling of belonging, security and human solidarity, all of which are essential for the well-being of children. Accordingly, we will attach a high priority to overcoming the housing shortage and other infrastructure needs, particularly for children in marginalized peri-urban and remote rural areas.

28. We will take measures to manage our natural resources and protect and conserve our environment

in a sustainable manner. We will work to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, bearing in mind principles, including the principle that, in view of different contributions to global and environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. We will help to educate all children and adults to respect the natural environment for their health and well-being.

29. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children. We also recognize the importance of other international instruments relevant for children. The general principles of, *inter alia*, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for our actions concerning children, including adolescents. We urge all countries to consider, as a matter of priority, signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as International Labour Organization Conventions Nos. 138 and 182. We urge States parties to implement fully their treaty obligations and to withdraw reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to consider reviewing reservations with a view to withdrawing them.

30. We welcome the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and urge States parties to implement them fully.

31. We, the Governments participating in the special session, commit ourselves to implementing the Plan of Action through consideration of such measures as:

(a) Putting in place, as appropriate, effective national legislation, policies and action plans and allocating resources to fulfil and protect the rights and to secure the well-being of children;

(b) Establishing or strengthening national bodies such as, *inter alia*, independent ombudspersons for children, where appropriate, or other institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;

(c) Developing national monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of our actions on children;

(d) Enhancing widespread awareness and understanding of the rights of the child.

Partnerships and participation

32. In order to implement the present Plan of Action, we will strengthen our partnership with the following actors, who have unique contributions to make, and encourage the use of all avenues for participation to advance our common cause—the well-being of children and the promotion and protection of their rights:

1. Children, including adolescents, must be enabled to exercise their right to express their views freely, according to their evolving capacity, and build self-esteem, acquire knowledge and skills, such as those for conflict resolution, decision-making and communication, to meet the challenges of life. The right of children, including adolescents, to express themselves freely must be respected and promoted and their views taken into account in all matters af-

fecting them, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. The energy and creativity of children and young people must be nurtured so that they can actively take part in shaping their environment, their societies and the world they will inherit. Disadvantaged and marginalized children, including adolescents in particular, need special attention and support to access basic services, to build self-esteem and to prepare them to take responsibility for their own lives. We will strive to develop and implement programmes to promote meaningful participation by children, including adolescents, in decision-making processes, including in families and schools and at the local and national levels.

2. Parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers have the primary role and responsibility for the well-being of children, and must be supported in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities. All our policies and programmes should promote the shared responsibility of parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers, and society as a whole in this regard.

3. Local governments and authorities through, inter alia, strengthened partnerships at all levels, can ensure that children are at the centre of agendas for development. By building on ongoing initiatives, such as child-friendly communities and cities without slums, mayors and local leaders can improve significantly the lives of children.

4. Parliamentarians or members of legislatures are key to the implementation of the present Plan of Action, the success of which will require that they promote awareness-raising, adopt necessary legislation, facilitate and appropriate the financial resources needed for this purpose, and monitor their effective utilization.

5. Non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations will be supported in their work and mechanisms should be established, where appropriate, to facilitate the participation of civil society in matters relating to children. Civil society actors have a special role to play in promoting and supporting positive behaviour and creating an environment that is conducive to the well-being of children.

6. The private sector and corporate entities have a special contribution to make, from adopting and adhering to practices that demonstrate social responsibility to providing resources, including innovative sources of financing and community improvement schemes that benefit children, such as microcredits.

7. Religious, spiritual, cultural and indigenous leaders, with their tremendous outreach, have a key role as front-line actors for children to help to translate the goals and targets of the present Plan of Action into priorities for their communities and to mobilize and inspire people to take action in favour of children.

8. The mass media and their organizations have a key role to play in raising awareness about the situation of children and the challenges facing them. They should also play a more active role in informing children, parents, families and the general public about initiatives that protect and promote the rights of children, and should also contribute to educational programmes for children. In this regard,

the media should be attentive to their influence on children.

9. Regional and international organizations, in particular all United Nations bodies, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral agencies, should be encouraged to collaborate and play a key role in accelerating and achieving progress for children.

10. People who work directly with children have great responsibilities. It is important to enhance their status, morale and professionalism.

B. Goals, strategies and actions

33. Since the World Summit for Children, many goals and targets relevant to children have been endorsed by major United Nations summits and conferences and their review processes. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to achieve these goals and targets, and to offer this and future generations of children the opportunities denied to their parents. As a step towards building a strong foundation for attaining the 2015 international development targets and Millennium Summit goals, we resolve to achieve the unmet goals and objectives as well as a consistent set of intermediate targets and benchmarks during the course of this decade (2000–2010) in the following priority areas of action.

34. Taking into account the best interests of the child, we commit ourselves to implement the following goals, strategies and actions with appropriate adaptations to the specific situation of each country and the diverse situations and circumstances in different regions and countries throughout the world.

1. Promoting healthy lives

35. Owing to poverty and lack of access to basic social services, more than 10 million children under five years of age, nearly half of them in their neonatal period, die every year of preventable diseases and malnutrition. Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth and maternal anaemia and malnutrition kill more than half a million women and adolescents each year, and injure and disable many more. More than one billion people cannot obtain safe drinking water, 150 million children under five years of age are malnourished, and more than two billion people lack access to adequate sanitation.

36. We are determined to break the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition and poor health by providing a safe and healthy start in life for all children; providing access to effective, equitable, sustained and sustainable primary health-care systems in all communities, ensuring access to information and referral services; providing adequate water and sanitation services; and promoting a healthy lifestyle among children and adolescents. Accordingly, we resolve to achieve the following goals in conformity with the outcomes of recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions of the General Assembly, as reflected in their respective reports:

(a) Reduction in the infant and under-five mortality rate by at least one third, in pursuit of the goal of reducing it by two thirds by 2015;

(b) Reduction in the maternal mortality ratio by at least one third, in pursuit of the goal of reducing it by three quarters by 2015;

(c) Reduction of child malnutrition among children under five years of age by at least one third, with special attention to children under two years of age, and reduction in the rate of low birth weight by at least one third of the current rate;

(d) Reduction in the proportion of households without access to hygienic sanitation facilities and affordable and safe drinking water by at least one third;

(e) Development and implementation of national early childhood development policies and programmes to ensure the enhancement of children's physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development;

(f) Development and implementation of national health policies and programmes for adolescents, including goals and indicators, to promote their physical and mental health;

(g) Access through the primary health-care system to reproductive health for all individuals of appropriate age as soon as possible, and no later than 2015.

37. To achieve these goals and targets, taking into account the best interests of the child, consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, we will carry out the following strategies and actions:

1. Ensure that the reduction of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality is a health sector priority and that women, in particular adolescent expectant mothers, have ready and affordable access to essential obstetric care, well-equipped and adequately staffed maternal health-care services, skilled attendance at delivery, emergency obstetric care, effective referral and transport to higher levels of care when necessary, post-partum care and family planning in order, inter alia, to promote safe motherhood.

2. Provide access to appropriate, user-friendly and high-quality health-care services, education and information to all children.

3. Address effectively, for all individuals of appropriate age, the promotion of their healthy lives, including their reproductive and sexual health, consistent with the commitments and outcomes of recent United Nations conferences and summits, including the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, their five-year reviews and reports.

4. Promote child health and survival and reduce disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible, with particular attention to eliminating the pattern of excess and preventable mortality among girl infants and children.

5. Protect, promote and support exclusive breastfeeding of infants for six months and continued breastfeeding with safe, appropriate and adequate complementary feeding up to two years of age or beyond. Provide infant-feeding counselling for mothers living with HIV/AIDS so that they can make free and informed choices.

6. Special emphasis must be placed on prenatal and post-natal care, essential obstetric care and care for

newborns, particularly for those living in areas without access to services.

7. Ensure full immunization of children under one year of age, at 90 per cent coverage nationally, with at least 80 per cent coverage in every district or equivalent administrative unit; reduce deaths due to measles by half by 2005; eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus by 2005; and extend the benefits of new and improved vaccines and other preventive health interventions to children in all countries.

8. Certify by 2005 the global eradication of poliomyelitis.

9. Eradicate guinea worm disease.

10. Strengthen early childhood development by providing appropriate services and support to parents, including parents with disabilities, families, legal guardians and caregivers, especially during pregnancy, birth, infancy and early childhood, so as to ensure children's physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cognitive development.

11. Intensify proven, cost-effective actions against diseases and malnutrition that are the major causes of child mortality and morbidity, including reducing by one third deaths due to acute respiratory infections; reducing by one half deaths due to diarrhoea among children under the age of five; reducing by one half tuberculosis deaths and prevalence; and reducing the incidence of intestinal parasites, cholera, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and all forms of hepatitis, and ensure that effective measures are affordable and accessible, particularly in highly marginalized areas or populations.

12. Reduce by one half the burden of disease associated with malaria and ensure that 60 per cent of all people at risk of malaria, especially children and women, sleep under insecticide-treated bednets.

13. Improve the nutrition of mothers and children, including adolescents, through household food security, access to basic social services and adequate caring practices.

14. Support populations and countries suffering from severe food shortages and famine.

15. Strengthen health and education systems and expand social security systems to increase access to integrated and effective health, nutrition and child-care in families, communities, schools and primary health-care facilities, including prompt attention to marginalized boys and girls.

16. Reduce child injuries due to accidents or other causes through the development and implementation of appropriate preventive measures.

17. Ensure effective access by children with disabilities and children with special needs to integrated services, including rehabilitation and health care, and promote family-based care and appropriate support systems for parents, families, legal guardians and caregivers of these children.

18. Provide special help to children suffering from mental illnesses or psychological disorders.

19. Promote physical, mental and emotional health among children, including adolescents, through play, sports, recreation, artistic and cultural expression.

20. Develop and implement policies and programmes for children, including adolescents, aimed

at preventing the use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and inhalants, except for medical purposes, and at reducing the adverse consequences of their abuse, as well as support preventive policies and programmes, especially against tobacco and alcohol.

21. Develop policies and programmes aimed at children, including adolescents, for the reduction of violence and suicide.

22. Achieve sustainable elimination of iodine deficiency disorders by 2005 and vitamin A deficiency by 2010; reduce by one third the prevalence of anaemia, including iron deficiency, by 2010; and accelerate progress towards reduction of other micronutrient deficiencies, through dietary diversification, food fortification and supplementation.

23. In efforts to ensure universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities, pay greater attention to building family and community capacity for managing existing systems and promoting behavioural change through health and hygiene education, including in the school curriculum.

24. Address any disparities in health and access to basic social services, including health-care services for indigenous children and children belonging to minorities.

25. Develop legislation policies and programmes, as appropriate, at the national level and enhance international cooperation to prevent, inter alia, the exposure of children to harmful environmental contaminants in the air, water, soil and food.

2. Providing quality education

38. Education is a human right and a key factor to reducing poverty and child labour and promoting democracy, peace, tolerance and development. Yet more than 100 million children of primary school age, the majority of them girls, are not enrolled in school. Millions more are taught by untrained and underpaid teachers in overcrowded, unhealthy and poorly equipped classrooms. And one third of all children do not complete five years of schooling, the minimum required for basic literacy.

39. As agreed at the World Education Forum in Dakar, which reconfirmed the mandated role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in coordinating "Education For All" partners and maintaining their collective momentum within the process of securing basic education, we will accord high priority to ensuring by 2015 that all children have access to and complete primary education that is free, compulsory and of good quality. We will also aim at the progressive provision of secondary education. As a step towards these goals, we resolve to achieve the following targets:

(a) Expand and improve comprehensive early childhood care and education, for girls and boys, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children;

(b) Reduce the number of primary school-age children who are out of school by 50 per cent and increase net primary school enrolment or participation in alternative, good quality primary education programmes to at least 90 per cent by 2010;

(c) Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005; and achieve gender

equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality;

(d) Improve all aspects of the quality of education so that children and young people achieve recognized and measurable learning outcomes, especially in numeracy, literacy and essential life skills;

(e) Ensure that the learning needs of all young people are met through access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes;

(f) Achieve a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women.

40. To achieve these goals and targets, we will implement the following strategies and actions:

1. Develop and implement special strategies to ensure that schooling is readily accessible to all children and adolescents, and that basic education is affordable for all families.

2. Promote innovative programmes that encourage schools and communities to search more actively for children who have dropped out or are excluded from school and from learning, especially girls and working children, children with special needs and children with disabilities, and help them to enrol in and attend schools, and successfully complete their education, involving Governments as well as families, communities and non-governmental organizations as partners in the educational process. Special measures should be put in place to prevent and reduce dropout due to, inter alia, entry into employment.

3. Bridge the divide between formal and non-formal education, taking into account the need to ensure good quality in terms of educational services, including the competence of providers, and acknowledging that non-formal education and alternative approaches provide beneficial experiences. In addition, develop complementarity between the two delivery systems.

4. Ensure that all basic education programmes are accessible, inclusive and responsive to children with special learning needs and for children with various forms of disabilities.

5. Ensure that indigenous children and children belonging to minorities have access to quality education on the same basis as other children. Efforts must be directed to providing this education in a manner that respects their heritage. Efforts must also be directed to providing educational opportunities so that indigenous children and children belonging to minorities can develop an understanding of and sustain their cultural identity, including significant aspects such as language and values.

6. Develop and implement special strategies for improving the quality of education and meeting the learning needs of all.

7. Create, with children, a child-friendly learning environment, in which they feel safe, are protected from abuse, violence and discrimination, and are healthy and encouraged to learn. Ensure that education programmes and materials reflect fully the promotion and protection of human rights and the values of peace, tolerance and gender equality, using every opportunity presented by the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010.

8. Strengthen early childhood care and education by providing services, developing and supporting programmes directed toward families, legal guardians, caregivers and communities.

9. Provide education and training opportunities to adolescents to help them to acquire sustainable livelihoods.

10. Design, where appropriate, and implement programmes that enable pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers to continue to complete their education.

11. Urge the continued development and implementation of programmes for children, including adolescents, especially in schools, to prevent and discourage the use of tobacco and alcohol and detect, counter and prevent trafficking in and the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances except for medical purposes by, inter alia, promoting mass media information campaigns on their harmful effects as well as the risk of addiction, and taking necessary actions to deal with the root causes.

12. Promote innovative programmes to provide incentives to low-income families with school-age children to increase the enrolment and attendance of girls and boys and to ensure that they are not obliged to work in a way that interferes with their schooling.

13. Develop and implement programmes that specifically aim to eliminate gender disparities in enrolment and gender-based bias and stereotypes in education systems, curricula and materials, whether derived from any discriminatory practices, social or cultural attitudes or legal and economic circumstances.

14. Enhance the status, morale, training and professionalism of teachers, including early childhood educators, ensuring appropriate remuneration for their work and opportunities and incentives for their development.

15. Develop responsive, participatory and accountable systems of educational governance and management at the school, community and national levels.

16. Meet the specific learning needs of children affected by crises, by ensuring that education is provided during and after crises, and conduct education programmes to promote a culture of peace in ways that help to prevent violence and conflict and promote the rehabilitation of victims.

17. Provide accessible recreational and sports opportunities and facilities at schools and in communities.

18. Harness the rapidly evolving information and communication technologies to support education at an affordable cost, including open and distance education, while reducing inequality in access and quality.

19. Develop strategies to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on education systems and schools, students and learning.

3. Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence

41. Hundreds of millions of children are suffering and dying from war, violence, exploitation, neglect and all forms of abuse and discrimination. Around the world, children live under especially difficult circumstances—permanently disabled or seriously injured by

armed conflict; internally displaced or driven from their countries as refugees; suffering from natural and man-made disasters, including such perils as exposure to radiation and dangerous chemicals; as children of migrant workers and other socially disadvantaged groups; as victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Trafficking, smuggling, physical and sexual exploitation and abduction, as well as the economic exploitation of children, even in its worst forms, are daily realities for children in all regions of the world, while domestic violence and sexual violence against women and children remain serious problems.

In several countries, there have been social and humanitarian impacts from economic sanctions on the civilian population, in particular women and children.

42. In some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women and children, including adolescents.

43. Children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Societies must eliminate all forms of violence against children. Accordingly, we resolve to:

(a) Protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence;

(b) Protect children from the impact of armed conflict and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law;

(c) Protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation, including paedophilia, trafficking and abduction;

(d) Take immediate and effective measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labour as defined in International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, and elaborate and implement strategies for the elimination of child labour that is contrary to accepted international standards;

(e) Improve the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances.

44. To achieve these goals, we will implement the following strategies and actions:

General protection

1. Develop systems to ensure the registration of every child at or shortly after birth, and fulfil his or her right to acquire a name and a nationality, in accordance with national laws and relevant international instruments.

2. Encourage all countries to adopt and enforce laws, and improve the implementation of policies and programmes to protect children from all forms of violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation, whether at home, in school or other institutions, in the workplace, or in the community.

3. Adopt special measures to eliminate discrimination against children on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, and ensure their equal access to education, health and basic social services.

4. End impunity for all crimes against children by bringing perpetrators to justice and publicizing the penalties for such crimes.
 5. Take steps with a view to the avoidance of and refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular children and women, that hinders their well-being and that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical care and the necessary social services. Ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure.
 6. Raise awareness about the illegality and harmful consequences of failing to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation.
 7. Promote the establishment of prevention, support and caring services as well as justice systems specifically applicable to children, taking into account the principles of restorative justice and fully safeguard children's rights and provide specially trained staff to promote children's reintegration in society.
 8. Protect children from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Call upon the Governments of all States, in particular States in which the death penalty has not been abolished, to comply with the obligations they have assumed under relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, including in particular articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and articles 6 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
 9. End harmful traditional or customary practices, such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, which violate the rights of children and women.
 10. Establish mechanisms to provide special protection and assistance to children without primary caregivers.
 11. Adopt and implement policies for the prevention, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration, as appropriate, of children living in disadvantaged social situations and who are at risk, including orphans, abandoned children, children of migrant workers, children working and/or living on the street and children living in extreme poverty, and ensure their access to education, health, and social services as appropriate.
 12. Protect children from adoption and foster care practices that are illegal, exploitative or that are not in their best interest.
 13. Address cases of international kidnapping of children by one of the parents.
 14. Combat and prevent the use of children, including adolescents, in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
 15. Promote comprehensive programmes to counter the use of children, including adolescents, in the production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
 16. Make appropriate treatment and rehabilitation accessible for children, including adolescents, dependent on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, inhalants and alcohol.
 17. Provide protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, the majority of whom are women and children, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law.
 18. Ensure that children affected by natural disasters receive timely and effective humanitarian assistance through a commitment to improved contingency planning and emergency preparedness, and that they are given all possible assistance and protection to help them to resume a normal life as soon as possible.
 19. Encourage measures to protect children from violent or harmful web sites, computer programs and games that negatively influence the psychological development of children, taking into account the responsibilities of the family, parents, legal guardians and caregivers.
- Protection from armed conflict**
20. Strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict and adopt effective measures for the protection of children under foreign occupation.
 21. Ensure that issues pertaining to the rights and protection of children are fully reflected in the agendas of peacemaking processes and in ensuing peace agreements, and are incorporated, as appropriate, into United Nations peacekeeping operations and peace-building programmes; and involve children, where possible, in these processes.
 22. End the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict contrary to international law, ensure their demobilization and effective disarmament and implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society.
 23. Put an end to impunity, prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes and exclude, where feasible, these crimes from amnesty provisions and amnesty legislation, and ensure that whenever post-conflict truth and justice-seeking mechanisms are established, serious abuses involving children are addressed and that appropriate child-sensitive procedures are provided.
 24. Take concrete action against all forms of terrorism, which causes serious obstacles to the development and well-being of children.
 25. Provide appropriate training and education in children's rights and protection as well as in international humanitarian law to all civilian, military and police personnel involved in peacekeeping operations.
 26. Curb the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons and protect children from landmines, unexploded ordnance and other war materiel that victimize them, and provide assistance to victimized children during and after armed conflict.
 27. Resolve to strengthen international cooperation, including burden-sharing in and coordination of humanitarian assistance to countries hosting refugees, and to help all refugees and displaced per-

sons, including children and their families, to return voluntarily to their homes in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated in their societies.

28. Develop and implement policies and programmes, with necessary international cooperation, for the protection, care and well-being of refugee children and children seeking asylum and for the provision of basic social services, including access to education, in addition to health care and food.

29. Give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification, and continue to monitor the care arrangements for unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children.

30. Assess and monitor regularly the impact of sanctions on children and take urgent and effective measures in accordance with international law with a view to alleviating the negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children.

31. Take all necessary measures to protect children from being taken as hostages.

32. Develop specific strategies to protect and provide for the special needs and particular vulnerabilities of girls affected by armed conflict.

Combating child labour

33. Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency. Provide for the rehabilitation and social integration of children removed from the worst forms of child labour by, inter alia, ensuring access to free basic education and, whenever possible and appropriate, vocational training.

34. Take appropriate steps to assist one another in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour through enhanced international cooperation and/or assistance, including support for social and economic development, poverty eradication programmes and universal education.

35. Elaborate and implement strategies to protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

36. In this context, protect children from all forms of economic exploitation by mobilizing national partnerships and international cooperation, and improve the conditions of children by, inter alia, providing working children with free basic education and vocational training, and integration into the education system in every way possible, and encourage support for social and economic policies aimed at poverty eradication and at providing families, particularly women, with employment and income-generating opportunities.

37. Promote international cooperation to assist developing countries upon request in addressing child labour and its root causes, inter alia, through social and economic policies aimed at poverty eradication, while stressing that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes.

38. Strengthen the collection and analysis of data on child labour.

39. Mainstream action relating to child labour into national poverty eradication and development

efforts, especially in policies and programmes in the areas of health, education, employment and social protection.

Elimination of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children

40. Take concerted national and international action as a matter of urgency to end the sale of children and their organs, sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use of children for pornography, prostitution and paedophilia, and to combat existing markets.

41. Raise awareness of the illegality and harmful consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the Internet, and trafficking in children.

42. Enlist the support of the private sector, including the tourism industry and the media, for a campaign against sexual exploitation of and trafficking in children.

43. Identify and address the underlying causes and the root factors, including external factors, leading to sexual exploitation of and trafficking in children and implement preventive strategies against sexual exploitation of and trafficking in children.

44. Ensure the safety, protection and security of victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and provide assistance and services to facilitate their recovery and social reintegration.

45. Take necessary action, at all levels, as appropriate, to criminalize and penalize effectively, in conformity with all relevant and applicable international instruments, all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including within the family or for commercial purposes, child prostitution, paedophilia, child pornography, child sex tourism, trafficking, the sale of children and their organs, engagement in forced child labour and any other form of exploitation, while ensuring that, in the treatment by the criminal justice system of children who are victims, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

46. Monitor and share information regionally and internationally on the cross-border trafficking of children; strengthen the capacity of border and law enforcement officials to stop trafficking and provide or strengthen training for them to respect the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all those, particularly women and children, who are victims of trafficking.

47. Take necessary measures, including through enhanced cooperation between Governments, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to combat the criminal use of information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of the sale of children, for child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism, paedophilia and other forms of violence and abuse against children and adolescents.

4. Combating HIV/AIDS

45. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is having a devastating effect on children and those who provide care for them. This includes the 13 million children orphaned by AIDS, the nearly 600,000 infants infected every year through mother-to-child transmission and the millions of HIV-positive young people living with the stigma of

HIV but without access to adequate counselling, care and support.

46. To combat the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on children, we resolve to take urgent and aggressive action as agreed at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, and to place particular emphasis on the following agreed goals and commitments:

(a) By 2003, establish time-bound national targets to achieve the internationally agreed global prevention goal to reduce by 2005 HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15 to 24 in the most affected countries by 25 per cent and by 25 per cent globally by 2010, and intensify efforts to achieve these targets as well as to challenge gender stereotypes and attitudes, and gender inequalities in relation to HIV/AIDS, encouraging the active involvement of men and boys;

(b) By 2005, reduce the proportion of infants infected with HIV by 20 per cent, and by 50 per cent by 2010, by ensuring that 80 per cent of pregnant women accessing antenatal care have information, counselling and other HIV-prevention services available to them, increasing the availability of and providing access for HIV-infected women and babies to effective treatment to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as through effective interventions for HIV-infected women, including voluntary and confidential counselling and testing, access to treatment, especially anti-retroviral therapy and, where appropriate, breast-milk substitutes and the provision of a continuum of care;

(c) By 2003, develop and by 2005 implement national policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to provide a supportive environment for orphans and girls and boys infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children; and protect orphans and vulnerable children from all forms of abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, trafficking and loss of inheritance.

47. To achieve these goals, we will implement the following strategies and actions:

1. By 2003, ensure the development and implementation of multisectoral national strategies and financing plans for combating HIV/AIDS that address the epidemic in forthright terms; confront stigma, silence and denial; address gender and age-based dimensions of the epidemic; eliminate discrimination and marginalization; involve partnerships with civil society and the business sector and the full participation of people living with HIV/AIDS, those in vulnerable groups and people most at risk, particularly women and young people; are resourced to the extent possible from national budgets without excluding other sources, inter alia, international cooperation; promote and protect fully all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; integrate a gender perspective; address risk, vulnerability, prevention, care, treatment and support and reduction of the impact of the epidemic; and strengthen health, education and legal system capacity.

2. By 2005, ensure that at least 90 per cent, and by 2010 at least 95 per cent of young men and women

aged 15 to 24 have access to the information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, in full partnership with young people, parents, families, educators and health-care providers.

3. By 2005, develop and make significant progress in implementing comprehensive care strategies to: strengthen family and community-based care, including that provided by the informal sector, and health-care systems to provide and monitor treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS, including infected children, and to support individuals, households, families and communities affected by HIV/AIDS; and improve the capacity and working conditions of health-care personnel, and the effectiveness of supply systems, financing plans and referral mechanisms required to provide access to affordable medicines, including anti-retroviral drugs, diagnostics and related technologies, as well as quality medical, palliative and psychosocial care.

4. By 2005, implement measures to increase capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework.

5. By 2003, develop and/or strengthen strategies, policies and programmes which recognize the importance of the family in reducing vulnerability, inter alia, in educating and guiding children and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors, to reduce the vulnerability of children and young people by ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including HIV/AIDS in curricula for adolescents; ensuring safe and secure environments, especially for young girls; expanding good-quality, youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling services; strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes; and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible.

6. By 2003, develop and begin to implement national strategies that incorporate HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, care and treatment elements into programmes or actions that respond to emergency situations, recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and in particular women and children, are at increased risk of exposure to HIV infection; and, where appropriate, factor HIV/AIDS components into international assistance programmes.

7. Ensure non-discrimination and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights through the promotion of an active and visible policy of de-stigmatization of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

8. Urge the international community to complement and supplement efforts of developing coun-

tries that commit increased national funds to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic through increased international development assistance, particularly those countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly in Africa, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, countries at high risk of expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and other affected regions whose resources to deal with the epidemic are seriously limited.

C. Mobilizing resources

48. Promoting healthy lives, including good nutrition and control of infectious diseases, providing quality education, protecting children from abuse, exploitation, violence and armed conflict and combating HIV/AIDS are achievable goals and are clearly affordable for the global community.

49. The primary responsibility for the implementation of the present Plan of Action and for ensuring an enabling environment for securing the well-being of children, in which the rights of each and every child are promoted and respected, rests with each individual country, recognizing that new and additional resources, both national and international, are required for this purpose.

50. Investments in children are extraordinarily productive if they are sustained over the medium to long term. Investing in children and respecting their rights lays the foundation for a just society, a strong economy, and a world free of poverty.

51. Implementation of the present Plan of Action will require the allocation of significant additional human, financial and material resources, nationally and internationally, within the framework of an enabling international environment and enhanced international cooperation, including North-South and South-South cooperation, to contribute to economic and social development.

52. Accordingly, we resolve to pursue, among others, the following global targets and actions for mobilizing resources for children:

(a) Express our appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and urge the developed countries that have not done so to strive to meet the yet to be attained internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance as soon as possible. We take it upon ourselves not to spare any efforts to reverse the declining trends of official development assistance and to meet expeditiously the targets of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to least developed countries, as agreed, taking into account the urgency and gravity of the special needs of children;

(b) Without further delay, implement the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and agree to cancel all bilateral official debts of heavily indebted poor countries as soon as possible, in return for demonstrable commitments by them to poverty eradication, and urge the use of debt service savings to finance poverty eradication programmes, in particular those related to children;

(c) Call for speedy and concerted action to address effectively the debt problems of least developed coun-

tries, low-income developing countries and middle-income developing countries in a comprehensive, equitable, development-oriented and durable way through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term and thereby to improve their capacity to deal with issues relating to children, including, as appropriate, existing orderly mechanisms for debt reduction such as debt swaps for projects aimed at meeting the needs of children;

(d) Increase and improve access of products and services of developing countries to international markets through, *inter alia*, the negotiated reduction of tariff barriers and the elimination of non-tariff barriers, which unjustifiably hinder trade of developing countries, according to the multilateral trading system;

(e) Believing that increased trade is essential for the growth and development of LDCs, aim at improving preferential market access for LDCs by working towards the objective of duty-free and quota-free market access for all LDCs' products in the markets of developed countries;

(f) Mobilize new and substantial additional resources for social development, both at national and international level, to reduce disparities within and among countries, and ensure the effective and efficient use of existing resources. Further, ensure to the greatest possible extent, that social expenditures that benefit children are protected and prioritized during both short-term and long-term economic and financial crises;

(g) Explore new ways of generating public and private financial resources, *inter alia*, through the reduction of excessive military expenditures and the arms trade and investment in arms production and acquisition, including global military expenditures, taking into consideration national security requirements;

(h) Encourage donor and recipient countries, based on mutual agreement and commitment, to implement fully the 20/20 initiative, in line with the Oslo and Hanoi Consensus documents, to ensure universal access to basic social services.

53. We will give priority attention to meeting the needs of the world's most vulnerable children in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries and sub-Saharan Africa.

54. We will also give special attention to the needs of children in small island developing States, landlocked and transit developing countries and other developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

55. We will promote technical cooperation between countries in order to share positive experience and strategies in the implementation of the present Plan of Action.

56. Meeting our goals and aspirations for children merits new partnerships with civil society, including with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and innovative arrangements for mobilizing additional resources, both private and public.

57. Bearing in mind that corporations must abide by national legislation, we encourage corporate social responsibility so that it contributes to social development goals and the well-being of children, *inter alia*, by:

1. Promoting increased corporate awareness of the interrelationship between social development and economic growth.
2. Providing a legal, economic and social policy framework that is just and stable to support and stimulate private sector initiatives aimed at achieving these goals.
3. Enhancing partnerships with business, trade unions and civil society at the national level in support of the goals of the Plan of Action.

We urge the private sector to assess the impact of its policies and practices on children and to make the benefits of research and development in science, medical technology, health, food fortification, environmental protection, education and mass communication available to all children, particularly to those in greatest need.

58. We resolve to ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other multilateral bodies and civil society, with a view to achieving the goals of the present Plan of Action.

D. Follow-up actions and assessment

59. To facilitate the implementation of actions committed to in this document, we will develop or strengthen as a matter of urgency, if possible by the end of 2003, national and, where appropriate, regional action plans with a set of specific time-bound and measurable goals and targets based on the present Plan of Action, taking into account the best interests of the child, consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the people and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We will therefore strengthen our national planning and ensure the necessary coordination, implementation and resources. We will integrate the goals of the present Plan of Action into our national Government policies as well as national and subnational development programmes, poverty eradication strategies, multisectoral approaches and other relevant development plans, in cooperation with relevant civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations working for and with children, as well as children, in accordance with their age and maturity, and their families.

60. We will monitor regularly at the national level and, where appropriate, at the regional level and assess progress towards the goals and targets of the present Plan of Action at the national, regional and global levels. Accordingly, we will strengthen our national statistical capacity to collect, analyse and disaggregate data, including by sex, age and other relevant factors that may lead to disparities, and support a wide range of child-focused research. We will enhance international cooperation to support statistical capacity-building efforts and build community capacity for monitoring, assessment and planning.

61. We will conduct periodic reviews at the national and subnational levels of progress in order to address obstacles more effectively and accelerate actions. At the regional level, such reviews will be used to share best practices, strengthen partnerships and accelerate progress. Therefore:

(a) We encourage States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to consider including in their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child information on measures taken and results achieved in the implementation of the present Plan of Action;

(b) As the world's lead agency for children, the United Nations Children's Fund is requested to continue to prepare and disseminate, in close collaboration with Governments, relevant funds, programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and all other relevant actors, as appropriate, information on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration and the Plan of Action. The governing bodies of the relevant specialized agencies are requested to ensure that, within their mandates, the fullest possible support is given by these agencies for the achievement of the goals outlined in the Plan of Action and to keep the General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, fully informed of progress to date and additional action required during the decade ahead, using existing reporting frameworks and procedures;

(c) We request the Secretary-General to report regularly to the General Assembly on the progress made in implementing the present Plan of Action.

62. We hereby recommit ourselves to spare no effort in continuing with the creation of a world fit for children, building on the achievements of the past decade and guided by the principles of first call for children. In solidarity with a broad range of partners, we will lead a global movement for children that creates an unstoppable momentum for change. We make this solemn pledge secure in the knowledge that, in giving high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development, we serve the best interests of all humanity and ensure the well-being of all children in all societies.

Preparatory process

Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee for the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly, established by Assembly resolution 54/93 [YUN 1999, p. 1113], held its resumed third session (2 and 6 May) [A/S-27/2/Add.1 (Part II) & Corr.1,2]. It had held an organizational session and its first substantive session in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1132] and its second session and first part of its third session in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1092].

On 6 May, the Committee decided to transmit to the special session, for further consideration, the text of the draft outcome document entitled "A world fit for children" (see p. 1169), which was annexed to the Committee's report.

Communications. On 28 March [A/S-27/12], Japan transmitted to the special session the declaration entitled "Yokohama Global Commitment 2001", adopted at the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Yokohama, 17-20 December 2001). On 6 May [A/S-27/15], Japan transmitted the Final Appeal of Children and Young People, which was

presented by children and youth at the closing session of the Congress.

A 12 April letter from Jamaica, in its capacity as Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee [A/S-27/13], transmitted the outcome documents of the five main regional processes held in 2000 and 2001 in preparation for the special session.

On 7 May [A/S-27/17], the Russian Federation transmitted the text of an address by the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the concluding document of the Conference of CIS members on preparations for the special session (Minsk, Belarus, 26-27 April 2001).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 31 January [meeting 93], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 56/259** [draft: A/56/L.71] without vote [agenda item 26].

Schedule for the plenary meetings and round tables of the special session of the General Assembly on children

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/26 of 20 November 2000, in which it decided to convene the special session of the General Assembly for follow-up to the World Summit for Children from 19 to 21 September 2001, and to refer to it as the “special session on children”,

Recalling also its decision 56/401 of 12 September 2001, by which it decided to postpone the special session on children until a date to be decided by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,

Recalling further its resolution 56/222 of 24 December 2001, in which it decided to convene the special session on children from 8 to 10 May 2002,

Recalling its resolution 55/276 of 22 June 2001, in which it decided:

(a) That the special session on children would include three interactive round-table sessions,

(b) To adopt the organizational arrangements set out in the annex to resolution 55/276,

(c) That these arrangements would in no way create a precedent for other special sessions,

Noting that paragraph 12 of the draft decision on the organizational arrangements for the special session on children, recommended by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children for adoption by the Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session indicated that six plenary meetings were to be held from Wednesday, 19 September, to Friday, 21 September 2001, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily,

Noting also that, in paragraph 1 of the annex to resolution 55/276, it decided that the round tables would be held on Wednesday, 19 September, from 3 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., and on Thursday and Friday, 20 and 21 September 2001, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

Decides that the plenary meetings and the round tables of the special session of the General Assembly on

children shall be held according to the schedules set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

1. The six plenary meetings of the special session of the General Assembly on children shall be held as follows:

Wednesday, 8 May 2002, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday, 9 May 2002, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, 10 May 2002, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

2. The round tables for the special session on children shall be held as follows:

Round table 1: Wednesday, 8 May 2002, from 3 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Round table 2: Thursday, 9 May 2002, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Round table 3: Friday, 10 May 2002, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On 1 May, the Assembly decided that the Prime Minister of Nepal would replace the President of the Republic of Korea as the sixth co-chairperson and as one of the two co-chairpersons of round table 3 (**decision 56/467**).

Follow-up to special session

In July, a senior-level consultation with UNICEF's global NGO partners reviewed experience, methodologies and options for supporting the participation of civil society, families, young people and children in the national follow-up process, as envisaged in the Plan of Action. It discussed the integration of the goals of “A world fit for children” into national efforts to pursue the Millennium Development Goals, contained in General Assembly resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], as well as into poverty reduction strategies. It also reviewed opportunities for achieving synergy in the national monitoring of both sets of goals and between national reporting on the implementation of the Plan of Action of “A world fit for children” and the periodic reporting by States parties to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in Assembly resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p. 560]. Although follow-up strategies would differ among countries, UNICEF offices and National Committees would promote common elements based on the commitments made in the Declaration and Plan of Action, and UNICEF would provide support to national authorities to ensure a broad-based and participatory process of establishing or adjusting national and subnational goals and targets.

Following the initial national planning stage, UNICEF would continue to work with national partners to promote a favorable policy context for follow-up. Internationally, it would continue to

make the case that actions for children had to be a priority in all development efforts, that the foundation for poverty eradication lay in investing in children and respecting their rights, and that the participation of children and young people was the key to sustained progress.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December, in **decision 57/537**, the General Assembly took note of a November report of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee on follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children [A/57/557].

Also on 18 December, the Assembly, in **resolution 57/190**, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth (2003) session on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in "A world fit for children" (see p. 1169).

On 20 December, the Assembly decided that the item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children" should be considered at its fifty-eighth (2003) session in plenary meeting (**decision 57/551**).

United Nations Children's Fund

UNICEF was committed to advocating for children's rights, helping meet their basic needs and expanding their opportunities to reach their full potential; mobilizing political will and building the capacity of countries to ensure that children received a "first call" on resources; strengthening the ability of children and their families to deal with crises, including armed conflict and HIV/AIDS; promoting the equal rights of girls and boys, and supporting the development of their communities; and working towards human development goals, and the peace and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It worked with partners to ensure that the goals contained in "A world fit for children", as set out in General Assembly resolution S-27/2 (see p. 1169) were met.

UNICEF's annual flagship publication, *The State of the World's Children 2002*, focused on the issue of leadership in putting the rights and well-being of children above all other concerns, stating that ensuring children's rights and welfare was the key to sustainable development at the country level and to peace and security in the world. It called for leadership from all continents and all sectors of society and emphasized the need to give children the best possible start in life, to ensure that every child completed a basic education, and to involve children, particularly adolescents, in decisions that affected their lives.

In 2002, UNICEF cooperated with 162 countries and territories: 46 in sub-Saharan Africa; 35 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 34 in Asia; 20 in the Middle East and North Africa; and 27 in Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States.

Total expenditures, including write-offs, amounted to \$1,273 million (compared with \$1,246 million in 2001), of which 93 per cent (\$1,188 million) was for country programmes of cooperation; 6 per cent (\$79 million) for management and administration of the organization; and about 1 per cent (\$6 million) for write-offs and other charges. Programme expenditures by priorities were: \$292 million on integrated early childhood development; \$250 million on immunization "plus" (see p. 1186); \$198 million on girls' education; \$115 million on the improved protection of children; and \$94 million on HIV/AIDS. Expenditures for programme support amounted to \$145 million. UNICEF operations in 2002 were described in the *UNICEF Annual Report* covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2002 and the annual report of its Executive Director [E/ICEF/2003/4 (Part I) & (Part II)].

The UNICEF Executive Board held its first regular session of 2002 (21-25 January), the annual session (3-7 June) and the second regular session (16-19 September), all in New York [E/2002/34/Rev.1]. It had elected its officers in January [dec. 2002/1]. The Board adopted 19 decisions during those sessions.

The Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2002/290** of 25 July, took note of the Board's report on its first regular session; an extract from the report on its annual session; and the annual report of the Executive Director covering the year 2001 [E/2002/69], which was transmitted in accordance with a January decision of the Board [E/2002/34/Rev.1 (dec. 2002/2)].

On 19 September [dec. 2002/19], the Board adopted the programme of work and dates for its 2003 sessions, with the first regular session scheduled to be held from 13 to 17 January, the annual session from 2 to 6 June and the second regular session from 15 to 19 September. An extraordinary session regarding the 2004-2005 support budget was scheduled for December.

Joint meeting. On 27 September [E/2002/35 (dec.2002/27)], the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) proposed a two-day meeting in January 2003 of the joint Executive Boards of UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF. It requested that the Bureau of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board propose an agenda and communicate it to the Bureaux of the UNICEF and WFP

Executive Boards, and that the Bureaux of the three Executive Boards finalize the agenda not later than 1 December.

Programme policies

In decisions related to UNICEF's programme policies, the Executive Board, on 7 June [dec. 2002/8], welcomed the General Assembly's endorsement of the 2001 Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001-2010 in resolution 55/279 [YUN 2001, p. 771]. It requested UNICEF to continue to give special attention to LDCs in its programme activities, emphasized the importance of the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme by UNICEF within its mandate, and invited the Executive Director to mainstream the implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action in UNICEF activities, as called for in Assembly resolution 56/227 [ibid., p. 773]. On 17 September [dec. 2002/12], the Board endorsed the global strategy for infant and young child feeding, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May.

Medium-term financial plan (2002-2005)

Although the medium-term financial plan was contained in each medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) (the 2002-2005 MTSP was approved by the Executive Board in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1094]), it was updated annually. The Board considered a July report [E/ICEF/2002/AB/L.9], which presented the financial plan for 2002-2005 and updated the plan to reflect higher levels resulting from increased income. The report stated that the Executive Director recommended that the Board approve the medium-term financial plan as a framework of projections for 2002-2005, including the preparation of up to \$253 million in programme expenditures from regular resources to be submitted to the Board in 2003. The amount was subject to the availability of resources and to the condition that estimates of income and expenditure continued to be valid.

On 18 September [dec. 2002/14], the Board approved the 2002-2005 medium-term financial plan, as recommended by the Executive Director.

Evaluation system

In accordance with a 2001 Executive Board decision [YUN 2001, p. 1091] on the 2002 programme of work, the Board considered a status report, submitted in April [E/ICEF/2002/10], on UNICEF's evaluation function in the context of the 2002-2005 MTSP [YUN 2001, p. 1094]. The report gave an overview of UNICEF's evaluation system and accountability framework for evaluation; described

recent measures to strengthen the evaluation function; and proposed a multi-year evaluation plan in support of MTSP.

On 7 June [dec. 2002/9], the Executive Board, endorsing the report as the policy statement on UNICEF's evaluation function, encouraged UNICEF to collaborate with UN system members, within their respective mandates, on questions related to evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the operational activities for development identified in the triennial comprehensive policy review, completed in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 781]. The UNICEF secretariat was requested to: ensure transparency and impartiality of evaluations and to make sure that the evaluation process was conducted in a professional manner; take into account, where appropriate, the Board's programme of work when scheduling its evaluation activities; and ensure that evaluations of relevance to the Board were brought to its attention. UNICEF was requested to use external evaluators more extensively; support programme countries to evaluate their own programmes and contribute to strengthening evaluation capacity in those countries; and ensure the full participation of national authorities in drafting terms of reference, the development of evaluation methodologies and indicators, and the selection of evaluation teams in all country-level evaluation exercises. The Executive Board decided to review UNICEF's evaluation function through a progress report at the Board's annual session in 2004.

Emergency assistance

In 2002, emergency appeals were supported by 33 Governments, along with 31 National Committees and seven other donors. Of emergency contributions pledged and indications of pledges as of the end of November, 87 per cent were from Governments and 13 per cent from NGOs and other sources.

UNICEF adopted the principle of mainstreaming emergency programmes into the country programme process, which, along with the five organizational priorities of MTSP (see p. 1185) guided all programmes, whether in stable or unstable situations.

Maurice Pate Award

In January, the Executive Board considered a UNICEF secretariat recommendation [E/ICEF/2002/7] regarding the Maurice Pate Award, established in 1966 in memory of UNICEF's first Executive Director [YUN 1966, p. 385]. A 2001 review [YUN 2001, p. 1094] found that, in most respects, the Award's stated purpose and selection criteria remained valid. However, developments since the

last revision in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 1200] suggested that a modest revamping was timely. The recommendation proposed, among other things, revising the selection criteria to link the Award with MTSP organizational priorities and the Global Movement for Children, which sought to facilitate citizen action and obtain the commitment of key actors in all sectors of society to fulfil children's rights. On 24 January [dec. 2002/5], the Executive Board took note of the recommendation and amended the procedure related to objectives, recipients, nominations, selection and value for the Award. Under the revisions, the Award would be renamed "The UNICEF Maurice Pate Leadership for Children Award", and the prize money would be set at \$50,000. The Award was not made in 2002.

UNICEF programmes by region

In 2002, UNICEF regional programme expenditures totalled \$1,044 million, of which \$447 million (43 per cent) went to programmes in sub-Saharan Africa; \$372 million (36 per cent) to programmes in Asia; \$67 million (6.5 per cent) to programmes in the Americas and the Caribbean; \$65 million (6 per cent) to programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States; and \$57 million (5.5 per cent) to programmes in the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, \$36 million (3 per cent) went to interregional programmes. Programme support costs amounted to an additional \$145 million.

Programme expenditures continued to be concentrated in countries with low-income and high under-five mortality rates. The 63 low-income countries—those with a per capita gross national income of \$755 and less—had a total child population of 1 billion, or about 55 per cent of all children worldwide, and received 71 per cent of the total programme expenditure, which was 3 per cent higher than in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1094].

(For information regarding the UNICEF country programme approval process, see p. 1191).

Field visits

From 15 to 22 April, UNICEF Executive Board members visited Brazil, a country in which UNICEF had an extremely high public profile. The country programme accorded priority to the poor, marginalized and rural populations; disparity reduction; strengthening child-related policies and services; adolescents, particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy, drug abuse and violence; child labour; and child sexual abuse and exploitation. One reason cited for UNICEF's success was the ownership of the programme process in municipalities and ministries.

However, the team observed that UNICEF needed to strengthen its activities in marginal and needy areas, especially among the Afro-Brazilian population.

Executive Board members who visited Viet Nam from 15 to 25 April observed that although the country programme for Viet Nam had been approved before the 2001 adoption of the MTSP [YUN 2001, p. 1094], there was a high degree of convergence between the two programmes. It was noted that HIV/AIDS was a particular concern for the Government and donors, and that the Government had expressed a strong desire for partnership and harmonization of donor procedures. In a "paradox of success", the great strides made by Viet Nam in reducing mortality and improving other indicators would potentially result in less regular resource support from UNICEF. At the same time, there were increased opportunities for working with the private sector, for more foreign direct investment and for promoting corporate social responsibility and other types of partnerships. During visits to specific projects, issues were raised regarding water and sanitation; the need for intersectoral cooperation at the level of project implementation; donor funds for disaster assistance; Viet Nam's desire for one co-operation agreement with the United Nations; and UNICEF's focus on child injury in Viet Nam.

The visit to Viet Nam included, for the first time, a joint segment with members of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, and with the participation of high-level government officials, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; international and local NGOs; bilateral development agencies; and the Bretton Woods institutions. It was noted that the Government was a very strong counterpart, with a high degree of ownership of its cooperation programmes. The joint segment had helped the Vietnamese authorities to strengthen their cooperation with the UN system and highlighted challenges regarding the issues of coordination, the appropriate distribution of labour, and procedures such as procurement.

In June [dec. 2002/7], the Executive Board took note of the reports on the field visits to Brazil [E/ICEF/2002/CRP.7] and to Viet Nam [E/ICEF/2002/CRP.8].

UNICEF programmes by sector

In 2002, UNICEF programme expenditures were linked to the five organizational priorities established in 2001 under the 2002-2005 MTSP [YUN 2001, p. 1093], with the largest share of the \$1,044 million total expenditure made in the area of early childhood development (\$302 million or 29 per cent). Significant shares also went

to immunization “plus” (\$260 million or 25 per cent); girls’ education (\$201 million or 19 per cent); child protection (\$117 million or 11 per cent); and HIV/AIDS (\$96 million or 9 per cent) (see below). Expenditures in other areas amounted to \$69 million or 7 per cent of the total.

The Executive Director allocated \$23.3 million in 2002 for country programmes from the global set-aside of 7 per cent of regular resources. The funds were allocated in support of strategic initiatives, in line with the Executive Board decision establishing the set-aside [YUN 1997, p. 1220]. The largest portion of the set-aside—47 per cent—was used for the protection of children and young people affected by HIV/AIDS, while 25 per cent supported global partnership efforts to eradicate polio. The remaining funds were used for emergency response in southern Sudan, other immunization activities, arsenic mitigation and initiatives in the areas of ECD, maternal health and the promotion of child rights. Sixty-four per cent of the set-aside funds were allocated to sub-Saharan Africa, and 20 per cent to Asia.

Early childhood development

The most concrete results achieved in the area of early childhood development (ECD) in 2002 reflected progress towards sectoral goals in health, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, which were considered UNICEF’s traditional strengths. UNICEF was pioneering an integrated approach to ECD that linked national policies, the provision of basic services, and improved family care practices for young children and mothers. UNICEF’s 2002 ECD guidelines stressed that the integration of activities to support young children should be practical and context-specific. The development of ECD indicators began in 2000 and would continue to be a major focus in 2003.

UNICEF supported the development of national policies for young children in 38 countries through advocacy with policy makers, consensus-building, technical support and the inclusion of priority issues for young children in sector-wide approaches (SWAPs) and poverty reduction strategies. It also supported the development of monitoring systems for young child development, including growth monitoring and promotion, in over 30 countries and screening systems for developmental delays and disabilities in Cambodia, Indonesia and South Africa.

In 58 of the 80 countries with high child and maternal mortality and morbidity rates and/or large disparities in those rates, which were targeted by UNICEF for an improvement in basic services, UNICEF expanded access to quality preventive health, nutrition and safe water, and promoted recommended practices for breastfeeding,

young child feeding, sanitation and hygiene. In the 50 poorest countries, however, it was necessary that UNICEF and other partners continue to invest in known, cost-effective interventions, including the promotion of exclusive and continued breastfeeding, safe hygiene practices, micronutrient supplementation and delaying a woman’s first pregnancy.

UNICEF support to maternal health included policy dialogue and awareness-raising, training of obstetricians and birth attendants, supply of birth kits and clinical equipment and support to obstetric care and referral systems. It contributed to strengthened capacities for safe delivery in 54 countries and sponsored studies that helped increase awareness of the scale of maternal deaths. UNICEF also promoted emergency obstetric care as pivotal to reducing maternal mortality, a strategy that was implemented successfully in the six South Asian countries, where most of the world’s maternal deaths occurred.

UNICEF supported malaria prevention and control activities in 44 countries, primarily in Africa. It procured 3.7 million insecticide-treated bednets for 26 countries, which was double the 2001 quantity, and also supplied nets for reducing malaria outbreaks in emergencies.

UNICEF also supported water, sanitation and hygiene improvement activities in 86 countries, and made major efforts to combat micronutrient malnutrition, particularly vitamin A, iron and iodine deficiencies. It helped to establish the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, an alliance of public and private sector partners, and worked with the Micronutrient Initiative, a not-for-profit organization specializing in addressing micronutrient malnutrition, to launch programmes for food fortification and supplementation. The success of salt iodization as a cost-effective approach to reducing iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) continued, although more work needed to be done in Eastern Europe and West Africa. In China, where UNICEF supported a massive campaign to promote the use of iodized salt, 51 million additional people—including 800,000 newborns—were protected against IDD.

UNICEF promoted key practices among families and communities for the care and support of young children and mothers in 70 countries, through training of community workers, parental education, media campaigns, studies on existing practices and support to community networks.

Immunization “plus”

In 2002, UNICEF support to immunization and vitamin A supplementation helped avert hun-

dreds of thousands of deaths and prevented many more disabilities. Immunization “plus” services (protection from vaccine-preventable disease and micronutrient deficiencies, with life-long benefits), which were part of nationally agreed plans, were managed through government-led inter-agency coordination committees and contributed to health system reform.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which was led by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Rotary International, made further strides. As at year’s end, only seven countries were polio-endemic, down from 10 in 2001. A record 550 million children received oral polio vaccine (OPV) in 95 countries, and in the 10 countries where polio was still circulating by the end of 2001, UNICEF and partners supported over 50 National and Subnational Immunization Days, reaching more than 200 million children. UNICEF purchased and delivered virtually all the vaccines used in those campaigns, some 1.3 billion doses of OPV. However, outbreaks in two countries raised the global total of reported polio cases above 1,000, while instability continued to hamper eradication efforts in parts of Africa and Afghanistan. Europe was certified polio-free, but UNICEF continued to support eradication campaigns in Bulgaria and Georgia, in response to imported cases.

During the period 2000-2002, 170 million children were vaccinated against measles through campaigns in 21 of the 45 countries where 94 per cent of all measles-related child deaths occurred, and the Measles Initiative, led by UNICEF, WHO, the American Red Cross and the United States CDC, prevented an estimated 170,000 child deaths. In 2002 alone, immunization activities supported by UNICEF and its partners in emergency countries helped save more than 100,000 children from dying of measles. A vaccination campaign in Kenya, for which UNICEF supplied all vaccines and helped coordinate logistics, reached nearly 94 per cent of that country’s 14 million children aged 9 months to 14 years.

WHO estimated that 15,000 fewer infants died of tetanus in 2000-2001 due to accelerated efforts to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). Global efforts in 2002 focused on 57 countries that had not achieved the goal of elimination in all districts. UNICEF supported supplemental immunization activities in 15 of those countries and planned MNT activities for 26 countries in 2003.

The ease of use of pre-filled “Uniject” auto-disable (AD) devices was confirmed in trials in Mali. Together with UNFPA and WHO, UNICEF

was committed to assisting countries to introduce AD syringes for all immunization services by 2003. Under the safe injection programme of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), an alliance between the private and public sector, UNICEF shipped more than 54 million AD syringes to 18 countries.

In 2002, UNICEF assisted a total of 87 countries through vitamin A capsule distribution, food fortification and communication campaigns, and shipped 390 million capsules provided by the Micronutrient Initiative. Vitamin A supplementation was still heavily dependent on polio campaigns, and there was a need to develop a way of sustaining the supplementation as polio campaigns were increasingly phased out.

UNICEF led the GAVI Vaccine Provision Project, which facilitated the forecasting and procurement of new vaccines. In 2002, UNICEF procured over 2 billion doses of vaccines to support routine immunization services and campaigns, including vaccine delivery on behalf of GAVI and the introduction of hepatitis B and haemophilus influenzae vaccines. An estimated 10 million children were protected against hepatitis B in the 55 developing countries that received vaccines from GAVI and its Vaccine Fund in 2001 and 2002.

Vaccine security

A report before the Executive Board on vaccine security: ensuring a sustained, uninterrupted supply of affordable vaccines [E/ICEF/2002/6 & Corr.1] stated that vaccine shortages had become a global problem, affecting industrialized and developing countries alike, due to significant changes in the vaccine market and the pharmaceutical industry’s greater focus on profitability. As a major purchaser of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF found it increasingly difficult to ensure the supply of even the traditional vaccines that it had purchased for many years. The report described UNICEF’s role in vaccine procurement, the emergence of the poorest countries’ vaccine market; and changes in the global vaccine industry and UNICEF’s response. As an organization-wide priority, UNICEF would enhance its leadership role in the procurement and distribution of vaccines; support capacity-building in countries for better planning, forecasting, management and use of vaccines; and act to procure vaccines on behalf of countries, as requested, to ensure an affordable and uninterrupted vaccine supply. It would work closely with donors and countries funding vaccine purchases through it, continue to work with Governments and other partners to increase government funding and capacity for immunization services, and would enter into firm contracts with manufactur-

ers to ensure the availability of vaccines required for immunization services in the countries it supported. UNICEF would adopt multifaceted approaches to vaccine financing to ensure that contractual obligations could be met at all times, highlighting the need to expand the Vaccine Independence Initiative Capital Fund to support those countries that were committed to covering their vaccine costs.

Girls' education

Through its focus on girls' education and on specific barriers facing girls, UNICEF supported quality basic education for all children. As the lead agency for the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1081], UNICEF worked with partners to promote girls' education in more than 100 countries. Basic education featured in almost all UNICEF programmes of cooperation in 2002. "Back-to-school" campaigns in countries affected by emergencies resulted in increased enrolment rates. In Afghanistan, where girls had been denied schooling for more than five years, UNICEF conducted the largest education campaign in its history, assisting the country's Interim Administration to provide learning opportunities to about 3 million children, including more than 1 million girls, and providing technical advice and supplies to 8,000 schools.

In addition to ensuring that girls attended school, UNICEF made efforts to help them complete their education, through measures to train female teachers, improve girls' safety and promote curricula, learning environments and unbiased attitudes. It also helped develop and distribute gender-sensitive textbooks and learning materials in 18 countries. In 2002, a "25 by 2005" campaign was launched to accelerate progress in 25 countries where girls lagged behind boys in enrolment, and where action would make the greatest impact. The campaign included 15 countries in Africa facing severe challenges, such as HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and poverty.

As an important step in ensuring that national basic education for all (EFA) programmes included explicit measures to address the problems affecting girls, a gender review in education was completed in 37 countries in the previous three years.

UNICEF promoted "child-friendly" schools—schools that were safe, promoted children's participation and equality and taught children about issues such as health, the environment and active citizenship—in 49 countries and gender-related studies in 36 others. As a strategy to improve girls' enrolment and retention, UNICEF also promoted school sanitation and hygiene, and water

supply for schools in some 50 countries. In 2002, UNICEF supported the establishment of networks of the Girls Education Movement (GEM)—a programme initiated by the Ugandan President to promote girls' education—in six other African countries.

Protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination

In 2002, UNICEF and/or Governments initiated an analysis of the impact on children of violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination in 91 countries with follow-up measures developed in 48 countries. UNICEF also sponsored studies on specific issues, including physical and psychological violence against children in homes, schools and institutions; harmful practices; juvenile justice; trafficking; children with disabilities; and child labour. The lack of available indicators for monitoring child protection remained a serious weakness. Groundwork was done to identify direct and "proxy" indicators at the global level and in a few countries, which would enable advances to be made in 2003.

UNICEF advocated and provided assistance in 80 countries for the ratification without reservation of relevant international laws on children's liberty, and new policies, laws or amendments were developed with its support. UNICEF also promoted local alternatives to the detention of young people in eight countries and supported assessments of the juvenile justice system in Caribbean countries, Cambodia and Mongolia. It continued to support efforts to mitigate the effects of childhood disability and to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in communities and schools.

UNICEF engaged in policy dialogue and supported research and actions towards the elimination of the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children in 82 countries. Interventions included communication campaigns, help-lines, support to databases and regional collaboration. In West Africa and East Asia, it contributed to new policies, programmes and public awareness on child trafficking.

Regarding child labour, UNICEF encouraged ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 on the subject [YUN 1999, p. 1388], which had been ratified by 132 countries as at year's end. It also encouraged Governments to ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on children and armed conflict, which were adopted in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 615] and entered into force on 18 January and 12 February, respectively (see p. 637). UNICEF advocated on

behalf of children in armed conflict in 45 countries, provided support to displaced children in 24 countries and facilitated the demobilization of child soldiers in 15 countries. In conflict-affected areas of Africa, and in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, it helped to reintegrate former child soldiers into communities and schools.

To help reduce physical and psychological violence against children, UNICEF supported research and training in over 70 countries; facilitated community capacity-building; and undertook advocacy, among other measures.

Economic and Social Council action. On 24 July, the Economic and Social Council called on Member States to promote cooperation with civil society in dealing with the issues of missing children and of sexual abuse or exploitation of children; to implement measures against child prostitution; and to ensure that the time limits for criminal proceedings in cases involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of children did not obstruct the prosecution of the offender (**resolution 2002/14**) (see p. 1116).

HIV/AIDS

As a result of expanded capacities and a rapid rise in programme expenditures in 2002, UNICEF intensified efforts against HIV/AIDS by channeling its resources and expertise into preventing the disease in young people, halting transmission from parent to child, and ensuring care, protection and support for children orphaned or made vulnerable in other ways by the disease. The greatest challenge was to mobilize leadership and increase efforts to fight HIV/AIDS.

A national situation analysis on HIV/AIDS, children and young people was undertaken in 70 countries, while in 54 countries UNICEF supported surveys or studies to assess trends in the epidemic and its impact on children. It also supported the development and implementation of national or large subnational communication and social mobilization campaigns to provide information, combat stigma and discrimination, and link people with services. Those activities improved policies, strategies and legislation; equipped young people to protect themselves from infection; expanded programmes to prevent parent-to-child transmission (PPTCT) of HIV; and established new mechanisms for protecting orphans and others affected by the epidemic.

UNICEF worked with Governments, NGOs and young people themselves to increase their access to information, life skills and health services. In 71 countries, UNICEF supported programmes in which young people taught each other about AIDS prevention. It also helped improve national policies and laws relating to HIV/AIDS in 26 coun-

tries and helped increase the coverage, effectiveness and sustainability of PPTCT programmes in 58 countries, up from 30 in 2000. In an evaluation of experience since 1999 in 11 UNICEF-supported pilot programmes, the Inter-Agency Task Team on PPTCT, which included experts from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (see p. 1219), UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and others, found that the programmes demonstrated the feasibility of the interventions in the context of child poverty. UNICEF supported the design of the PPTCT “plus” initiative, which would provide anti-retroviral therapy to HIV-infected mothers and their partners, and would play a key role in procurement.

In 2002, UNICEF focused on the development of national action plans for the protection and support of orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), including advocacy for improved legislation, policy development and the expansion of services for caregivers. UNICEF contributed directly to community initiatives and services for OVCs in 44 countries. Activities in Southern Africa focused on multisectoral responses to the critical needs of vulnerable children affected by the combination of AIDS and drought. The high-level African Leadership Consultation: Urgent Action for Children on the Brink, convened by UNICEF (Johannesburg, South Africa, 9-10 September), provided impetus, guidance and accountability for addressing the issue of OVCs. An estimated 30 African countries drafted strategies for their protection and care.

(For more information on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, see p. 1216.)

Organizational and administrative matters

UNICEF finances

UNICEF income totalled \$1,454 million, an increase of \$229 million (19 per cent) over 2001, which resulted from a one-time legacy of \$56 million, better performance in private sector activities and favourable exchange rates. The total was higher than the financial plan forecast by \$100 million (7 per cent). UNICEF derived its income primarily from Governments, which contributed \$913 million (63 per cent of total income); and from private sector or non-government sources, which provided \$482 million (33 per cent). The balance of \$59 million (4 per cent) was derived from other miscellaneous sources.

In June, the Executive Director submitted UNICEF’s financial report and statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2001 [E/ICEF/

2002/AB/L.2]. Consideration of the report by the Executive Board in September was deferred until the first regular session of 2003, as the report of the Board of Auditors was unavailable.

Budget appropriations

On 17 September [dec. 2002/10], at its second regular session, the Executive Board approved the Executive Director's recommendations for funding from regular and other resources in 2002 for 22 country programmes, 5 multi-country or sub-regional programmes, and 3 programmes with other resources proposals only, 2 of which were of a multi-country nature [E/ICEF/2002/P/L.36], amounting to the following respective amounts for regular and other resources by region: Africa, \$129,149,000 and \$133,342,000; the Americas and the Caribbean, \$12,974,000 and \$78,238,000; Asia, \$198,309,000 and \$379,425,000; Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States, \$10,500,000 and \$17,350,000; and the Middle East and North Africa, \$6,790,000 and \$12,850,000.

Also on 17 September [dec. 2002/11], the Executive Board approved the allocation of additional regular resources totalling \$13,146,228 to fund the approved country programmes of seven countries for 2003, as recommended by the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2002/P/L.35].

Audits

On 18 September [dec. 2002/15], the Executive Board took note of the UNICEF report to the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [E/ICEF/2002/AB/L.7] on steps taken or to be taken in response to the Board's recommendations on the UNICEF accounts for the 1998-1999 biennium.

In its fifth annual report [E/ICEF/2002/AB/L.8], the Office of Internal Audit stated that it had completed 30 audits in 2001, including three audits at headquarters locations. It found that controls were generally satisfactory, that no location was found to be unsatisfactory in all audited areas, and management actions to address audit recommendations were good in most offices. On 19 September [dec. 2002/18], the Executive Board took note of the report.

Cash assistance

A May report of the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2002/AB/L.5] described the modality of cash assistance to Government within the overall context of UNICEF programme cooperation with Governments. The report gave an overview of the guiding operational principles of UNICEF cooperation and described resource transfer mo-

dalities, including cash assistance to Government.

ACABQ reported in May [E/ICEF/2002/AB/L.6] on its consideration of the Executive Director's report.

On 19 September [dec. 2002/16], the Executive Board took note of both the Executive Director's report on cash assistance to Government and the ACABQ report.

Resource mobilization

UNICEF continued to collaborate with Governments to mobilize both regular and other resources, holding 11 donor consultations and 25 programmatic discussions with donor Governments and partners on various aspects of cooperation, including core financial support. UNICEF also entered into one new framework agreement with a donor Government.

At the pledging event in January, 51 Governments pledged a total of \$325 million to regular resources, and by year's end, 89 Governments had contributed \$368 million. The United States remained the largest donor, with a contribution of \$120 million, followed by Norway (\$39.2 million), Sweden (\$30.1 million), the Netherlands (\$27.2 million) and the United Kingdom (\$26 million). In the area of thematic funding, UNICEF saw a 24 per cent increase in contributions compared to 2001, with the United States as the largest donor (\$126.8 million), followed by Japan (\$94.7 million), the Netherlands (\$55.6 million) and the United Kingdom (\$45.6 million). Compared to previous years, 23 Governments increased their contribution, while 13 Governments restored their support to regular resources.

Private Sector Division

Net income from UNICEF Private Sector Division (PSD) activities for the year ending 31 December 2002 totalled \$281.4 million for regular resources, \$120.3 million (74.7 per cent) higher than the \$161.1 million achieved in 2001 [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.8]. That amount included \$37.9 million from the sale of UNICEF cards and products, \$236.8 million from private sector fund-raising activities, and a positive adjustment of \$6.7 million for other charges and provisions. In addition, \$141.9 million (\$174.2 million in 2001) was raised from private sector fund-raising activities that were earmarked for other resources. The net consolidated income, including both regular and other resources, amounted to \$423.3 million (\$335.3 million in 2001).

On 24 January [dec. 2002/6], the Executive Board approved budgeted expenditures of

\$82.2 million for the PSD work plan for 2002 [E/ICEF/2002/AB/L.1]. The Executive Director was authorized to redeploy resources between the various budget lines, up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved, and to spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2002 approved work plan. The Board renewed the Market Development Programme (\$2.7 million), the Fund-raising Development Programme (\$7.5 million) and the Nordic Investment Programme (\$4.1 million). It authorized the Executive Director to incur expenditures in 2002 related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products), up to \$32 million. The Board also approved the PSD medium-term plan for 2003-2006 and requested the Executive Director to submit, along with the next PSD budget proposal, a comprehensive business plan, to be updated annually, as the Division's contribution to the UNICEF MTSP [YUN 2001, p. 1093], in close consultation with national committees and based on their expertise in their markets. The plan would detail development strategies for each activity, organizational and financial consequences, and related policy decisions, for the Board's consideration. The Executive Director, requested to report on the development of the business plan at the 2002 second regular session, did so in an oral report. The plan itself would be included in the 2003 report on the PSD work plan and proposed budget.

On 19 September [dec. 2002/17], the Executive Board took note of the PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1099].

Country programme approval process

A report of the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2002/P/L.16] contained proposals to modify the procedures for the consideration and approval of country programmes of cooperation, which were adopted in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1206] and reviewed in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 1095]. The proposed changes aimed to streamline and simplify existing procedures, thereby reducing duplication and workload, while maintaining a sound, country-based and results-oriented programming process under the leadership of national authorities. They would enable the preparation of UNICEF programmes of cooperation to be situated within the country goals and strategies of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) [YUN 1998, p. 801], and to continue to reflect national priorities for children. They would also ensure the harmonization of UNICEF programme preparation and approval procedures

with those of other United Nations Development Group (UNDG) members in the context of UN reform, and would continue to provide the Executive Board with a mechanism to provide comments and advice on draft programme proposals, which would be taken into account by programme countries and UNICEF in the finalization of country programmes of cooperation.

On 22 January [dec. 2002/4], the Executive Board, having reviewed the Executive Director's report, decided that the draft country notes for UNICEF programmes of cooperation would be developed on the basis of national plans and priorities, and within the framework of the Common Country Assessment and of UNDAF. It decided on the length and content of the country notes, their timetable for presentation to the Board and guidelines regarding their revisions. The modifications were to take effect in 2003. The Executive Director was requested to report in 2005 on progress and on any issues arising from the implementation of the decision.

JIU reports

In January, the Executive Board had before it a secretariat note [E/ICEF/2002/5] on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on issues of relevance to UNICEF, prepared between September 2000 and September 2001. On 21 January [dec. 2002/3], the Executive Board took note of the document.

Innocenti Research Centre

In July [E/ICEF/2002/13], UNICEF submitted a progress report on the activities of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) (previously known as the International Child Development Centre), established in 1988 to strengthen the capacity of UNICEF and its cooperating institutions to respond to the evolving needs of children and to promote an emerging new global ethic for them [YUN 1988, p. 649]. The report stated that IRC had made major contributions to socio-economic research highlighting the impact of economic policy on children and to improved understanding of their rights. The Centre also contributed cutting-edge research to influence policy-making in favour of the world's poorest and most marginalized children and their families; informed policy formulation within UNICEF; strengthened UNICEF's role as an advocate for children's rights; and supported programme development and capacity-building. Included in the report was a proposed programme of work for 2003-2005, which promoted the growing role of IRC as a centre of reflection and cross-fertilization of experience towards raising the profile of children's

issues in national and international agendas while promoting learning within UNICEF itself.

The Executive Director recommended that the Executive Board approve the Centre's work programme for the period 2003-2005 to strengthen UNICEF capacity to explore new dimensions of its future agenda, and to use its field experience to inform cutting-edge research. An allocation of \$14 million in other resources was proposed, of which the Government of Italy pledged a minimum of 5.4 million euros (about \$5 million) for the Centre's core activities, with the remainder to be sought from other donors for specific activities. In September [dec. 2002/13], the Executive Board authorized a three-year extension of the Centre's programme for the period 2003-2005 with the recommended allocation.

Youth

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

UN policies and programmes on youth in 2002 continued to focus on efforts to implement the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 50/81 [YUN 1995, p. 121]. The Programme of Action addressed the problems faced by youth worldwide and outlined ways to enhance youth participation in national and international policy- and decision-making.

The United Nations Environment Programme took steps to support the engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues (see p. 1040).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAIDS and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, initiated and organized the First Regional Forum on Youth (Geneva, 26-28 August) [OPA/AC.33/2], on the theme "Security, opportunity and prosperity" (see also p. 1007).

Youth employment

The High-level Panel of the Youth Employment Network, formed by the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the ILO and the World Bank, at its first meeting in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1100], adopted recommendations based on a new approach and a new partnership between national Governments and global organizations for full

employment. The Panel's second meeting was scheduled for 2003.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/57/545], adopted **resolution 57/165** without vote [agenda item 98].

Promoting youth employment

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the resolve of heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitments relating to youth employment made at the major United Nations conferences and summits since 1990 and their follow-up processes,

Recalling its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which it took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998, which set forth important commitments regarding youth employment,

Recalling also its resolution 56/117 of 19 December 2001, in which, inter alia, it welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to create a Youth Employment Network and invited him to continue with initiatives in that regard,

Recognizing that young people are an asset for sustainable economic growth and social development, and expressing deep concern about the magnitude of youth unemployment and underemployment throughout the world and its profound implications for the future of our societies,

Recognizing also that Governments have a primary responsibility to educate young people and to create an enabling environment that will promote youth employment,

1. *Takes note* of the work of the High-level Panel of the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network and its policy recommendations;

2. *Encourages* Member States to prepare national reviews and action plans on youth employment and to involve youth organizations and young people in this process, taking into account, inter alia, the commitments made by Member States in this regard, in particular those included in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

3. *Invites*, within the context of the Youth Employment Network, the International Labour Organization, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the World Bank and other relevant specialized agencies, to assist and support, upon request, the efforts of Governments in the elaboration of national reviews and action plans, and to undertake a global analysis and evaluation of progress made in this regard;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the progress achieved by the Youth Employment Network.

Ageing persons

Second World Assembly on Ageing

The Second World Assembly on Ageing was convened in Madrid from 8 to 12 April [A/CONF.197/9], in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/262 [YUN 2000, p. 1141]. It reviewed the outcome of the First World Assembly, held in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1182], and adopted the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, a new strategy document to guide policy action on ageing in the twenty-first century. The Assembly also adopted a Political Declaration comprising major commitments by Governments towards the implementation of the new Plan of Action. (For more information on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, (see below and p. 1194), respectively.)

In its deliberations and outcome documents, the Second World Assembly paid particular attention to the challenges of ageing in developing countries, where the proportion of persons aged 60 and over was expected to rise to 19 per cent by 2050. It addressed the universal challenges and opportunities of ageing societies in the twenty-first century, especially in the context of development.

The Second World Assembly, attended by representatives of 159 States and regional commissions, specialized agencies and other UN entities, NGOs and the private sector, elected as its President José Maria Aznar, President of the Government of Spain. It also elected five Vice-Presidents, a Vice-President ex officio, a Rapporteur-General and a Chairman of the Main Committee. The Main Committee established two Working Groups: Working Group I considered the draft international plan of action on ageing, 2002; and Working Group II considered the draft political declaration. On 12 April [A/CONF.197/8], the Main Committee adopted a draft resolution recommending to the World Assembly the adoption of the Political Declaration and the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

In addition to the Political Declaration and the Plan of Action, the Assembly, on 12 April, adopted two resolutions. By one, it expressed its appreciation to President Aznar for his contribution to the success of the Assembly as its President, and gratitude to the Spanish Government for hosting the event. It decided to name the Plan of Action adopted at the Assembly the “Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing”. In its other resolution, the Assembly approved

the report of the Credentials Committee [A/CONF.197/6].

In a statement made at the opening of the Assembly, the Secretary-General said that in the 20 years since the adoption of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing by the first World Assembly in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1182], the fundamental objective—building a society fit for people of all ages—had not changed. An unprecedented demographic transformation was under way in which numbers of older persons were increasing dramatically. Most importantly, the increase would be greatest in developing countries, where the number of older persons was expected to quadruple over the next 50 years, a development that would have implications for every community, institution and individual. The Secretary-General called for a plan of action on ageing that was adapted to twenty-first century realities, and mentioned some overarching objectives. By promoting the active participation of older persons in society and development, their invaluable experience would be put to good use.

Parallel events. Besides the Assembly itself, parallel and associated events took place in Madrid and Valencia, Spain. The Valencia Forum (1-4 April) brought together researchers and practitioners of gerontology and care of geriatric and aged persons, including the private sector, and adopted the Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-first Century, designed to support the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. Events in Madrid included high-level round tables organized by the Spanish Government (“Dialogues 2020: the future of ageing”), numerous symposiums, seminars and panel discussions, and an NGO Forum on Ageing (5-9 April).

Work of the Assembly

Political Declaration

The Political Declaration of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, adopted on 12 April, together with the Madrid Plan of Action, 2002 (see p. 1194), committed Governments to take action, at all levels, on the Plan’s three priority directions: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments. It stated that while Governments had the primary responsibility for providing leadership on ageing matters and on the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, effective collaboration between national and local Governments, international agencies, older persons themselves and their organizations, other parts of civil society, including

NGOs and the private sector, was essential. Representatives underlined the important role of the UN system in assisting Governments, at their request, in the implementation, follow-up and national monitoring of the Madrid Plan of Action, and invited all people to join in their dedication to a shared vision of equality for persons of all ages.

Plan of Action

The International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (the Madrid Plan of Action) aimed to ensure that persons everywhere were able to age with security and dignity and to continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights. It was intended to be a practical tool to assist policy makers to focus on key priorities associated with individual and population ageing. The Plan was built on three priority directions: older persons and development, which focused on the need for societies to adjust their policies and institutions to promote the older population as a productive force for the good of society; advancing health and well-being into old age, which underlined the need for policies that promoted good health from childhood and onwards in order to attain a healthy old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments, which promoted policies oriented towards family and community to provide the basis for secure ageing.

The Plan emphasized the need to mainstream ageing in global development agendas and encompassed new developments in the social and economic arena that had transpired since the adoption of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1182]. It contained 35 objectives and 239 recommendations for action, primarily addressed to national Governments, but with emphasis on the need for partnerships between Governments, all parts of civil society and the private sector in its implementation.

The introductory section of the Madrid Plan of Action described demographic trends, stating that average life expectancy at birth had increased by 20 years since 1950 to 66 years and was expected to extend a further 10 years by 2050, which, together with the fast growth of the population in the first half of the twenty-first century, suggested that the number of persons over 60 would increase from about 600 million in 2000 to almost 2 billion in 2050. The proportion of persons defined as older was projected to increase from 10 per cent of the global population in 1998 to 15 per cent in 2025. The increase would be greatest and most rapid in developing countries, where the older population was expected to qua-

druple during the next 50 years. The transformation would result in the old and the young accounting for an equal proportion of the world's population by mid-century. Globally, the proportion of persons aged 60 years and older was expected to double between 2000 and 2050, from 10 to 21 per cent, whereas the proportion of children was projected to drop by a third, from 30 to 21 per cent. In certain developed countries and countries with economies in transition, the number of older persons already exceeded the number of children, and birth rates had fallen below replacement levels. Major demographic differences existed between developed and developing countries.

Under the Plan's priority regarding older persons and development, actions were recommended to promote the recognition of the social, cultural, economic and political contribution of older persons; encourage their participation in decision-making processes at all levels; and increase their employment opportunities. In rural areas, the Plan called for improved living conditions and infrastructure, the alleviation of the marginalization of older persons, and the integration of older migrants within new communities. Governments were urged to promote equality of opportunity through continuing education, training and retraining, as well as vocational guidance and placement services. The Plan sought to achieve a 50 per cent improvement in adult literacy levels, especially for women, by 2015, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults. Actions were suggested to achieve the full utilization of the potential and expertise of persons of all ages, recognizing the benefits of increased experience with age, and to strengthen solidarity through equity and reciprocity between generations. The Plan also recommended actions to reduce poverty among older persons; promote programmes to enable workers to acquire basic social protection/social security; and provide sufficient minimum income for all older persons, particularly socially and economically disadvantaged groups. Governments were urged to promote equal access by older persons to food, shelter, medical care and other services during and after natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, and to protect and assist them in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation. They were also urged to enhance older persons' contributions to reconstructing communities following emergencies.

With regard to advancing health and well-being into old age, the Plan of Action recommended actions to reduce the cumulative effects of factors increasing the risk of disease and de-

pendence in older age; promote the development of policies to prevent ill-health among them; and improve access to food and adequate nutrition. Governments were urged to eliminate social and economic inequalities based on age, gender or any other ground, including linguistic barriers, in order to ensure universal and equal access to health care; develop and strengthen primary health-care services; develop a continuum of health care to meet the needs of older persons; and involve them in developing and strengthening primary and long-term care services. The Plan called for improved assessment of the impact of HIV/AIDS on older persons' health, including those infected and caregivers caring for them or surviving family members; the provision of adequate information, training in caregiving skills, treatment and social support to older persons living with HIV/AIDS, and to their caregivers; and enhancement and recognition of older persons' contribution to development as caregivers for children with chronic diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and as surrogate parents. Other recommendations urged Governments to improve training for health professionals on the needs of older persons; develop comprehensive mental health-care services and provide treatment and management of mental health problems; and develop ways to help older people, including those with disabilities, to maintain maximum functional capacity throughout their lives.

Under the priority to ensure enabling and supportive environments, the Plan of Action recommended measures to promote "ageing in place" in the community, with due regard to individual preferences and affordable housing options; improve housing and environmental design to promote independent living; and improve the availability of accessible and affordable transportation. Governments were called on to provide a continuum of care and services from various sources and support for caregivers, and to support the caregiving role of older persons, particularly older women. Other recommendations included measures to eliminate all forms of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, and to create support services for those affected. To improve the public perception of ageing, the Plan of Action called for enhancing public recognition of older persons' authority, wisdom, productivity and other assets.

Included in the Plan of Action were recommendations for its implementation, which required sustained action at all levels to respond to the demographic changes ahead and to mobilize the skills and energies of older people. It would

also require systematic evaluation to respond to new challenges, and, among other things, a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development of older persons, based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and co-operation, and full respect for religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds. In addition, there was a critical and continuing need for international assistance to developing countries in articulating policies that addressed ageing.

The Plan called for mainstreaming ageing and older persons' concerns into national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies. NGOs had an important role in supporting Governments in their implementation, assessment and follow-up activities, and efforts should be made to promote institutional follow-up to the Plan of Action. Enhanced international cooperation was essential to support developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the Plan of Action. Developed countries that had not already done so were urged to make efforts towards meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries and 0.15 per cent to least developed countries. Developing countries were encouraged to ensure that ODA was used effectively. International financial institutions and regional development banks were asked to ensure that older persons were recognized as a development resource and were taken into account in policies and projects. The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) should include system-wide implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in its agenda, and the UN system's capacity to undertake its responsibility for implementation of the Plan should be improved. As the UN system focal point on ageing, the primary action of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs programme on ageing would be to promote the Plan of Action, while the UN regional commissions were responsible for translating the Plan into regional action plans. The Madrid Plan of Action identified the need to encourage and advance comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries, particularly in developing countries. The Commission for Social Development (see p. 1088) would be responsible for follow-up and appraisal of implementation, and it should integrate in its work the different dimensions of population ageing as contained in the Plan.

Documentation. Documents before the Assembly included a February note by the Secretariat [A/CONF.197/2], containing the Assembly's

provisional rules of procedure, adopted on 8 April. Also on 8 April, the Assembly adopted its agenda [A/CONF.197/1] and approved its organization of work [A/CONF.197/4]. Included as addenda to the report of the second session of the Commission for Social Development, acting as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly (see below), were March notes by the Secretariat containing agreed amendments to the text of the draft international plan of action on ageing, 2002 [A/CONF.197/3/Add.3 & 5] and to the text of the draft political declaration [A/CONF.197/3/Add.4]. Communications received included a 1 April letter from Malta to the Secretary-General [A/CONF.197/5] containing a paper on “ethical issues in old age”, and a 9 April note from Azerbaijan to the Secretary-General [A/CONF.197/7], containing information on the country’s initiatives on ageing.

Preparatory process

The Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing held its second session in New York from 25 February to 1 March [A/CONF.197/3]; the first and resumed first sessions were held in 2001 [YUN 2001, pp. 1102 & 1103]. The Commission considered a January report of the Secretary-General on the draft outcome document (see below); the status of preparations for the Assembly outlined in a February note by the Commission secretariat [E/CN.5/2002/PC/3]; the Assembly’s provisional agenda and organization of work; and other matters. On 1 March, the preparatory committee recommended a resolution for adoption by the World Assembly, which contained the Assembly’s provisional agenda and guidelines for the proposed organization of its work. A 1 March decision [dec. 2002/PC/1] listed 97 NGOs approved by the preparatory committee for accreditation, as set out in a February note by the Secretariat [E/CN.5/2002/PC/4].

Report of Secretary-General. During its consideration of the Assembly’s draft outcome document, the preparatory committee had before it a January report of the Secretary-General on abuse of older persons: recognizing and responding to abuse of older persons in a global context [E/CN.5/2002/PC/2], as requested by the preparatory committee in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1103]. The report, based on studies conducted in the past 20 years, discussed the abuse of older persons as a human rights issue; definitions and typologies within the context of social, economic and cultural diversity; intervention and prevention responses; the impact, consequences and costs of such abuse, and related policy implications. The report concluded that abusive behaviour and

practices towards older persons might be viewed as a violation of their fundamental rights as guaranteed in international covenants and embodied in the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 46/91 [YUN 1991, p. 698]. Abuse later in life might be linked to the lack of the economic means to reach old age in dignity. An agenda to examine how adequately to protect the rights of older persons and an investigation of abusive practices could constitute first steps towards a policy of zero tolerance for such abuse. Vulnerability to abuse might also be reduced by enabling older persons to remain active and productive, and thus to continue to contribute to society, community and family. Overall, there was a trend towards decreased reliance on institutional care for older persons, and more policy preference for family-based care, assisted by community services. A better knowledge base was needed to inform national and local policy, as well as the development of global guidelines for strategies and programmes for intervention and prevention. Improved knowledge of the nature and extent of abuse of older persons could help raise public awareness, contribute to effective recognition and reporting, and improve the likelihood of timely and appropriate responses. Intergovernmental resolutions could provide a platform for global action and the basis for national initiatives to assure the protection of older persons.

Other documents. The preparatory committee had before it a February note by the Secretariat on the information campaign for the Second World Assembly on Ageing undertaken by the UN Department of Public Information [E/CN.5/2002/PC/Misc.1], and an 11 February letter from China to the Secretary-General transmitting China’s position paper on ageing [E/CN.5/2002/5]. Annexed to the committee’s report [A/Conf.197/3] were the text of the draft political declaration [A/CONF.197/3/Add.1] and the draft international plan of action on ageing, 2002 [A/CONF.197/3/Add.2], as amended during informal consultations.

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

As requested in General Assembly resolution 56/228 [YUN 2001, p. 1104], the Secretary-General, in a June report [A/57/93], outlined the initial steps of follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, including the tasks and requirements of the UN programme on ageing of the Organization’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs as the UN system focal point on ageing. The report reviewed the major accomplishments and developments of the World Assembly and the

pre- and post-Assembly range of tasks of the UN programme on ageing. It pointed to the need to improve the institutional capacity of the UN system to respond to the tasks set by the Madrid Plan of Action (see p. 1194). The Secretary-General recommended that the Commission for Social Development, as the entity responsible for follow-up and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, should discuss how to integrate the different dimensions of population ageing in its work, as requested in the Plan. It should also discuss the modalities of reviews and appraisals at its forty-first (2003) session, on the basis of proposals to be prepared by the Secretariat. The UN programme on ageing should prepare, through consultations with Governments, UN system entities, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, a road map aimed at implementing the Plan of Action. As the Plan called for CEB to include in its agenda system-wide implementation of actions outlined in the plan, UN system focal points on ageing should be expanded and strengthened, with the UN programme on ageing serving as coordinator. The programme on ageing should also be strengthened, especially with respect to its monitoring and research components and its liaison and joint activities with NGOs and the private sector.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/57/546], adopted **resolution 57/167** without vote [agenda item 99].

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/24 of 10 November 1999, 54/262 of 25 May 2000, 56/118 of 19 December 2001 and 56/228 of 24 December 2001,

Reaffirming the principles and recommendations of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, which it endorsed in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in 1991, which provided guidance in areas of independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity,

Having considered the report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Spain for hosting the World Assembly and for the hospitality extended to all participants,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

2. *Endorses* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by consensus by the Second World Assembly on Ageing on 12 April 2002;

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

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take the necessary steps to implement the Madrid Plan of Action;

5. *Recognizes* that the evolving process of global ageing requires actions at all levels on the three priority directions in the Madrid Plan of Action, namely, older persons and development, advancing health and well-being into old age, and ensuring enabling and supportive environments;

6. *Affirms* the aim of the Madrid Plan of Action, which is to ensure that persons everywhere are able to age with security and dignity and to continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights;

7. *Recognizes* that progress made in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action should be contingent upon effective partnership among Governments, all parts of civil society and the private sector, as well as an enabling environment based, inter alia, on democracy, the rule of law, respect for all human rights, fundamental freedoms and good governance at all levels, including the national and international levels;

8. *Reaffirms* that enhanced international cooperation is an essential complement to national efforts to implement fully the Madrid Plan of Action, and therefore encourages the international community further to promote cooperation among all actors involved;

9. *Invites* international financial institutions and regional development banks to examine and adjust their lending and grants practices so as to ensure that older persons are recognized as a development resource and are taken into account in their policies and projects as part of efforts to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

10. *Welcomes* the active participation of civil society, the private sector and other relevant actors in the Second World Assembly on Ageing and their support for the implementation of the Political Declaration and the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the contributions made through parallel events organized by the Government of Spain, and urges relevant actors to continue research efforts in support of the Plan;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the necessary measures to improve the institutional capacity of the United Nations system to fulfil its responsibilities for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including, inter alia, the maintenance and strengthening of focal points on ageing in the light of the range of tasks called for in the Plan;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, to allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the Programme on Ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat so as to make it possible for the Programme efficiently and effectively to fulfil its task as the United Nations focal point on ageing and to facilitate and promote the Madrid Plan of Action by, inter alia, designing guidelines for policy development and implementation and advocating means to mainstream ageing issues into development agendas;

13. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the regional commissions to review the objectives and recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action, with a view of translating it into regional plans of action, and to assist national in-

stitutions, upon request, in implementing and monitoring their actions on ageing;

14. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, as the entity responsible for the follow-up to and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, to consider integrating the different dimensions of population ageing as contained in the Plan in its work and to consider the modalities for reviews and appraisals at its forty-first session in 2003;

15. *Welcomes* the preparation of a road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by the Programme on Ageing, and invites all relevant actors to contribute to its preparation;

16. *Urges* all Member States and other actors to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing and to support activities undertaken in

follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, including technical cooperation to promote the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the Political Declaration and the Madrid Plan of Action as widely as possible, including among all relevant organs of the United Nations system;

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

Also on 18 December, the Assembly, in **resolution 57/177**, called for efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in particular with regard to older women (see p. 1153).