

Chapter I

Development policy and international economic cooperation

In 2003, the world economy began to gain momentum following more than two years of sluggish growth. Although the war in Iraq and the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in several countries caused some setbacks early in the year, the global economy experienced a stronger-than-expected upturn in the second half of the year, raising the overall rate of growth of world output to 2.5 per cent. Despite the improved global prospects, large imbalances remained, making it unlikely that most developing countries would attain the rates of growth necessary for the achievement of the primary Millennium Development Goal (MDG), adopted by the General Assembly in 2000, of halving by 2015 the proportion of the world's people living in extreme poverty.

Eradicating poverty and achieving the other MDGs continued to be a focus of the work of UN bodies in 2003. The Assembly emphasized the vital role of the United Nations in promoting development and partnerships in order to meet the challenges of globalization and to realize the key MDGs of poverty reduction and sustainable development. The Assembly also discussed the ongoing implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and the preparations for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005. The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council adopted a ministerial declaration aimed at promoting an integrated approach to rural development as a means for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. The Council also endorsed the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty, which was set up as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme. In April, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration addressed ways to enhance the capacity of public administration for achieving the MDGs.

Follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, which reviewed progress in implementing Agenda 21, the action plan on sustainable development adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, was also a priority. The Commission on Sustainable Development, which was

charged with overseeing Summit follow-up, considered its own future role in that regard, as well as that of major groups. The Assembly reviewed plans by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for implementing the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

The implications of science and new technologies, especially information and communication technologies (ICTs), for development remained another focus of UN deliberations during the year. In December, the International Telecommunication Union convened the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which adopted the Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action to build an inclusive information society. The Assembly considered the role of biotechnology in promoting economic development and proposals for increasing global cybersecurity through the protection of critical information infrastructures. The Council welcomed the orientation of the UN ICT Task Force towards the use of ICTs in the advancement of the MDGs. The Commission on Science and Technology considered technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society, with particular emphasis on ICTs.

In addition, a variety of UN organs continued efforts to improve the lives of the millions of people living in particularly vulnerable areas of the world, including the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries. In April, the Committee for Development Policy conducted the triennial review of the list of officially designated LDCs, adding one country to the list and recommending two countries for future graduation. In August, the International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation adopted the Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action, a global framework for addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries and their transit developing neighbours. Preparations were under way for the comprehensive review in 2004 of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, adopted at the global conference on the subject in 1994.

International economic relations

Development and international economic cooperation

A number of UN bodies addressed development and international economic cooperation issues during 2003, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly, by **decision 58/528** of 17 December, deferred consideration of the launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development and included the item in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth (2004) session.

On 23 December, the Assembly took note of the reports of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee on its discussion of macro-economic policy questions [A/58/481 & Corr.1] (**decision 58/544**) and on sustainable development and international economic cooperation [A/58/483] (**decision 58/548**).

Economic and Social Council consideration. On 14 April, the Economic and Social Council held its sixth special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) [A/58/77-E/2003/62 & Add.1,2]. It had before it a March note [E/2003/50] by the Secretary-General containing background information on increased coherence, coordination and cooperation of economic policy for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development [YUN 2002, p. 953] (see p. 987).

Globalization and interdependence

In response to resolution 57/274 [YUN 2002, p. 814], the Secretary-General submitted a 26 September report on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence [A/58/394]. The report assessed the impact of globalization on the realization of the MDGs, adopted by the Millennium Summit in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 51]. It also discussed how to manage globalization so as to maintain and translate the momentum created by the consensus forged at the 2001 WTO Ministerial Meeting [YUN 2001, p. 1432], the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development [YUN 2002, p. 953] and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [*ibid.*, p. 821] into action to achieve the MDGs. In discussing globalization, poverty reduction and sustainable development, the report called for UN system organizations to

undertake mutual reviews of the impact of their work on the MDGs. International financial institutions and WTO should also be part of such evaluation exercises. The Economic and Social Council and the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) could contribute to the reviews. Also examined were the linkages between international migration, financial flows, especially workers' remittances, and trade; between corruption, organized crime, trafficking, arms trade and terrorism and measures to reduce their negative impact on growth and development; and between globalization of production patterns and environmental protection and sustainability.

The report concluded that Governments, international organizations, business institutions, and all civil society actors should take new steps to ensure that the measures and policies they adopted in areas such as finance, trade, science and technology, population and migration were supportive of the MDGs and of the developing countries' integration into the world economy. The General Assembly had an important role to play in maintaining the focus on ensuring that the MDGs and other development goals were placed at the centre of economic institutions and policies. It could also give guidance for continuing the international debate on the governance of globalization following the conclusion of the work of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization, established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 814].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/490], adopted **resolution 58/225** without vote [agenda item 100].

Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/169 of 15 December 1998, 54/231 of 22 December 1999, 55/212 of 20 December 2000, 56/209 of 21 December 2001 and 57/274 of 20 December 2002 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Reaffirming the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for the people of the entire world,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities and posing new challenges 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, within which some countries have made progress in successfully benefiting from the opportunities of globalization, while others have faced difficulties in coping with its challenges.

Noting with concern that, notwithstanding the current improvement, global economic growth has slipped since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, with a negative impact on development prospects for developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of appropriate policy responses at the national level by all countries to the challenges of globalization, in particular by pursuing sound policies, stressing that such national policies can yield better results with international support and with an enabling international economic environment, noting the need for support from the international community for the efforts of the least developed countries, in particular in improving their institutional and management capacities, and recognizing that all countries should pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promoting a favourable global economic environment,

Noting with serious concern that a large number of developing countries have not yet been able to benefit fully from the existing multilateral trading system, and underlining the importance of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy so as to enable them to take the fullest possible advantage of the trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization,

Bearing in mind the commitment made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001, to maintain the process of reform and the liberalization of trade policies, thus ensuring that the system plays its full part in promoting recovery, growth and development, to reaffirm strongly the principles and objectives set out in the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and to pledge to reject the use of protectionism and place development at the heart of the Doha work programme, ensuring that globalization benefits all and that the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, are achieved,

Stressing that the process of reform for a strengthened and stable international financial architecture should be based on broad participation in a genuine multilateral approach, involving all members of the international community, to ensure that the diverse needs and interests of all countries are adequately represented,

Underlining the urgent need to ensure the effective participation of all developing countries in the process of globalization, as an instrument for economic growth and poverty eradication,

Recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Noting with concern the increasing linkages between corrupt practices and the transfer of illicitly acquired assets, money-laundering and other related organized crimes across national borders, and calling for better international efforts to effectively address these global trends, including through effective economic and banking regulations in all countries and the return of illicitly acquired assets to the countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against

Corruption, and in this regard welcoming its adoption by the General Assembly,

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

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

3. *Reiterates* that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, inter alia, on good governance, both within individual countries and at the international level, sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions that are responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure, which are the basis for sustained growth, poverty eradication and employment creation, and that transparency in financial, monetary and trading systems and commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system, which are equally essential;

4. *Stresses* the need to address asymmetries in the current global system, including those related to the vulnerability of countries to external shocks, the concentration of technical innovation in industrialized countries and the limited international mobility of labour, as well as such issues as increasing the flow of foreign direct investment and enhancing the participation of developing countries in the world trading and financial systems;

5. *Welcomes* the commitment by all countries to promote national and global economic systems based on the principles of justice, equity, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion, as contained in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

6. *Strongly urges* the international community to take all necessary and appropriate measures, including support for structural and macroeconomic reform, foreign direct investment, enhanced official development assistance, the search for a durable solution to the external debt problem, market access, capacity-building and the dissemination of knowledge and technology, in order to achieve sustainable development and promote the participation in the global economy of all African countries, as well as the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

7. *Stresses* that, in the increasingly globalizing interdependent world economy, a holistic approach to the interconnected national, international and systematic challenges of financing for development, namely, sustainable, gender-sensitive and people-centred development, is essential in order to open up opportunities for all and to ensure that resources are created and used effectively, and that solid and accountable institutions are established at all levels;

8. *Also stresses* the special importance of creating an enabling international economic environment through strong cooperative efforts by all countries and institutions to promote equitable economic development in a world economy that benefits all people, and in that context invites developed countries, in particular the major industrialized countries, which have significant weight in influencing world economic growth, when

formulating their macroeconomic policies, to take into account whether the effects of those policies in terms of the external economic environment would be favourable to growth and development;

9. *Encourages* all countries to consider, in the context of existing regional or subregional arrangements, reviewing the contribution of their national financial, trade, debt relief and other policies to the realization of agreed development goals and commitments;

10. *Reaffirms* the significant importance of an open, universal, equitable, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory and balanced multilateral trading system in pursuit of sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

11. *Stresses* the need to promote corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the full development and effective implementation of inter-governmental agreements and measures, international initiatives and public-private partnerships and appropriate national regulations, and to support continuous improvement in corporate practices in all countries;

12. *Invites* all countries, as well as the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, within their respective mandates, to continue to strengthen interactions with civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, as important partners in development;

13. *Expresses its concern* about the setback at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September 2003, and stresses the importance of redoubling efforts in working towards the successful, timely and development-oriented conclusion of the Doha negotiations no later than 1 January 2005, as set out in the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (“Doha Ministerial Declaration”);

14. *Notes* the importance of advancing current efforts to reform the international financial architecture, as envisaged in the Monterrey Consensus, emphasizes that those efforts need to include the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard encourages the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to continue examining the issues of the voice and effective participation of those countries, as provided for in the communiqués of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee at their last meetings, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 21 and 22 September 2003, and looks forward to the consideration of a road map on the issue at their next meeting in April 2004;

15. *Underlines* the importance, for the improved access of developing countries to international financial markets, of considering counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies in the face of volatile capital flows and of strengthening macroeconomic stability;

16. *Also underlines* the fact that, in addressing the linkages between globalization and sustainable development, particular focus must be placed on identifying and implementing policies and practices that advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environ-

mental protection, taking into account the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and bearing in mind that good governance, at both national and international levels, is essential for sustainable development and to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed;

17. *Stresses* the need to build an inclusive information society, which is intrinsically global in nature, and that therefore national efforts need to be supported by effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including the international financial institutions, in order, inter alia, to assist in bridging the digital divide, promoting access to information and communication technologies, creating digital opportunities and harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development, and invites the World Summit on the Information Society to encourage all stakeholders in this regard;

18. *Reiterates* the need to address the specific concerns and needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States, and in this regard calls upon the least developed countries and their development partners, including multilateral financial institutions, to continue to implement expeditiously the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and to adopt further measures to effectively integrate the least developed countries into the global economy and the multilateral trading system;

19. *Welcomes* the Almaty Programme of Action, adopted at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 28 and 29 August 2003, which addresses the special needs of landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries, and calls upon all stakeholders fully and effectively to implement the Programme of Action;

20. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization, with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

21. *Invites* all relevant agencies of the United Nations system, through, inter alia, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, within existing resources, to review the impact of its work on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to focus its report to the Economic and Social Council on progress made in this regard;

22. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations system to continue to address the social dimension of globalization, encourages in that regard the work of the International Labour Organization on the social dimension of globalization, and takes note of the ongoing work of its World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization;

23. *Also stresses* the importance of migration as a phenomenon accompanying increased globalization, including its impact on economies, and underlines further the need for greater coordination and cooperation among countries as well as relevant regional and international organizations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on globalization and interdependence, in the context of the present resolution, which should focus on ways to forge greater coherence in order to advance the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”.

Development through partnership

Commission for Social Development action.

In February, the Commission for Social Development [E/2003/26] (see p. 1099), as part of its consideration of its priority theme, “National and international cooperation for social development”, discussed the topic of forging partnerships for social development. It recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a set of agreed conclusions calling for renewed and effective partnerships between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and among all relevant actors, to achieve the internationally agreed social development objectives and commitments. The Council, by **decision 2003/15** of 21 July, endorsed the Commission’s conclusions on partnerships (see p. 1100).

Commission on Sustainable Development action. The Commission on Sustainable Development, in April/May [E/2003/29] (see p. 840), discussed the issue of partnership initiatives on the basis of proposals contained in the Secretary-General’s February report on the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the future role of the Commission on Sustainable Development: the implementation track [E/CN.17/2003/2]. It proposed criteria and guidelines for the development of partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up, which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in **resolution 2003/61** of 25 July (see p. 842).

Private sector partnerships

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/76 [YUN 2001, p. 744], the Secretary-General submitted an 18 August report on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector [A/58/227]. The report reviewed recent developments, including the World Summit on Sustain-

able Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] and the International Conference on Financing for Development [ibid., p. 953], to illustrate the variety of partnership arrangements between UN entities and the non-State sector, and attempted to derive lessons and formulate proposals for meeting the challenges ahead. It noted that, in recent years, partnerships between the United Nations and non-State actors—including businesses, foundations and other private sector organizations—had played an increasingly important role and were considered an important tool to complement the Organization’s efforts to achieve UN goals and objectives, including the MDGs. At the same time, such partnerships contributed to the Organization’s renewal by introducing new methods of work. Partnerships took many forms, ranging from time-bound project partnerships involving a small number of actors to global initiatives involving a multitude of actors. They were an integral part of the work of many UN organizations, especially those with on-the-ground capacities to deliver. UN organizations were still learning how best to utilize the potential benefits of partnerships and were learning from experience gained so far. Among the lessons learned were that successful partnerships had to prove their worth in a practical manner by achieving concrete results and that they needed to make good business sense.

However, to exploit fully the potential contribution that partnerships could make to the Organization’s work, a more coherent and systematic approach to developing and supporting them across the UN system was needed. Such an approach could include providing stronger incentives for their development, sharing best practices more systematically, developing a stronger skill base and creating more robust processes for reporting and accountability. The new UN Partnership Office, which would bring under one umbrella the Global Compact Office and the UN Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), would be well placed to build on lessons learned thus far, enhance quality assurance and provide a more solid institutional framework in support of new and promising partnership initiatives. It would also identify strategies for ensuring a more systematic and coordinated approach to developing effective cooperation with non-State actors and consider the political issues raised by the Organization’s increased use of partnership approaches as a modality for delivering its goals.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 76], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 58/129** [draft: A/58/L.51 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 46].

Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000 and 56/76 of 11 December 2001,

Reaffirming the vital role of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

Underlining the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty,

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policy-making,

Stressing that efforts to meet the challenges of globalization could benefit from enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, in order to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and make concrete contributions to the realization of the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Emphasizing that all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development, and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise, and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other diseases,

Encouraging the private sector to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing the principle of good corporate citizenship, that is, bringing social values and responsibilities to bear on a conduct and policy premised on profit in-

centives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Recalling that the International Conference on Financing for Development welcomed all efforts to encourage good corporate citizenship and noted the initiative undertaken in the United Nations to promote global partnerships,

Noting that the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in order to promote the effective implementation of Agenda 21 at the international level, encouraged partnership initiatives for implementation by all relevant stakeholders to support the outcome of the Summit,

Also noting that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, reiterated, upon the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, that partnerships for sustainable development, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

Further noting that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/15 of 21 July 2003, endorsed the conclusion adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session that, at the international level, recent initiatives towards building voluntary partnerships for social development should be encouraged,

Taking note of the work of the United Nations on partnerships, such as the Global Compact Initiative launched by the Secretary-General, the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and welcoming the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-State partners and Member States, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development,

Stressing that partnerships should focus on the achievement of concrete results,

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

2. *Stresses* that the principles and approaches that govern such partnerships should be built on the firm foundation of United Nations purposes and principles, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and invites the United Nations system to continue to adhere to a common and systematic approach to partnership which, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, includes the following principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect, accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sectoral and geographic balance, and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations system in general and the agencies in particular;

3. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, to continue to explore possibilities of enhancing the use of partnerships to better implement their goals and programmes, in particular in the pursuit of development

and the eradication of poverty, bearing in mind the different mandates, modes of operation and objectives of the bodies and agencies, as well as the particular roles of the non-State partners involved;

4. *Recalls* that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission on Sustainable Development to serve as a focal point for discussions on partnerships that promote sustainable development, and in this context reaffirms the criteria and guidelines for partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up, as set out by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/61;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, while reiterating that they are a complement to but not intended to substitute for the commitments made by Governments with a view to achieving these goals;

6. *Also stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws, national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

7. *Calls upon* all bodies within the United Nations system that engage in partnerships to ensure the integrity and independence of the Organization and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, on their web sites and through other means;

8. *Stresses* that partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner, and in that regard calls upon partners to provide to and exchange relevant information with Governments, other stakeholders and the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations in which they engage, in an appropriate way, including through reports, with particular attention to the importance of sharing among partnerships information on their practical experience;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote the transparency and accountability of partnerships;

10. *Acknowledges* that serving successful partnerships requires specific skills on the part of the Secretariat staff, and calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to support and further to develop such skills, through appropriate training and the sharing of best practices;

11. *Recalls* the relevant paragraph in its resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Progress, challenges and constraints to achieving major UN development goals

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/246 [YUN 2002, p. 818], the Secretary-General submitted a 28 August report on progress towards and challenges and constraints to the achievement of the major development goals and

objectives adopted by the United Nations during the past decade [A/58/327]. The report noted that, since the adoption of the 1990 Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, in General Assembly resolution S-18/3 [YUN 1990, p. 337], and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (the 1990s), adopted by the Assembly in resolution 45/199 [ibid., p. 343], the United Nations had held a series of global conferences that had contributed to the forging of a new global consensus on development goals and policies. Also, in 2000, the Assembly had adopted, by resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], the Millennium Declaration, in which the international community resolved to move towards the implementation of the commitments made in the conferences by establishing measurable targets, referred to as the MDGs [ibid., p. 51]. The report also addressed a selection of challenges to and opportunities for development in the first decade of the new millennium. Among the positive forces for development, the report identified opportunities offered by technological progress for attaining food security and the contribution of information and communication technologies. Constraints to global development included the fight against HIV/AIDS, the challenges arising from demographic trends, including ageing and social safety nets, youth unemployment and migrant workers, and the reversal of the peace dividend due to increasing global military spending.

The report concluded that the focus of the international community's development efforts should be on implementation of the MDGs and the goals of the global conferences, which provided a concrete agenda for development in the new millennium. However, the progress achieved in the first quarter of the current decade in almost all fields was less than what was required to achieve all the development goals and targets established in recent years. Thus, extraordinary efforts and measures were required by the international community and Governments in all parts of the world to revitalize development.

On 23 December, by **decision 58/549**, the Assembly took note of the report.

Coercive economic measures

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/179 [YUN 2001, p. 746], the Secretary-General submitted an 11 September report [A/58/301] summarizing replies received from 10 Governments in response to his request for information on the issue of unilateral economic measures as a

means of political and economic coercion against developing countries.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/481/Add.1], adopted **resolution 58/198** by recorded vote (125-1-37) [agenda item 91 (a)].

Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolutions 44/215 of 22 December 1989, 46/210 of 20 December 1991, 48/168 of 21 December 1993, 50/96 of 20 December 1995, 52/181 of 18 December 1997, 54/200 of 22 December 1999 and 56/179 of 21 December 2001,

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economy and development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the imposition of measures of this nature and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;
4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/198:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada,

Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

The Assembly, on 4 November, adopted **resolution 58/7** on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba (see p. 286).

Sustainable development

Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

In 2003, several UN bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development, addressed implementation of the outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], in particular the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, which outlined actions and targets for stepping up implementation of Agenda 21—a programme of action for sustainable development worldwide, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) [YUN 1992, p. 672]. The actions and targets related to the five priority areas of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (known as the WEHAB issues) and to new partnerships for sustainable development.

Commission on Sustainable Development consideration. As the main body responsible for coordinating and monitoring implementation of the Summit outcomes, the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session (New York, 29 January, 28 April–9 May) [E/2003/29], discussed the Summit follow-up during its high-level segment (28–30 April). A multi-stakeholder dialogue and five regional implementation forums, held during the high-level segment, contributed to the deliberations. The Commission had before it a 21 February report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World

Summit and the future role of the Commission: implementation track [E/CN.17/2003/2], which discussed the outcomes of the Summit and their implications for follow-up at all levels, the future role of the Commission and the role of partnerships in meeting the Summit's objectives. The Secretary-General stated that, in order to achieve the specific goals and time-bound targets contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the UN system, Governments and other actors would have to significantly change their policies, programmes and modalities of work. While the primary focus of implementation remained at the national level, UN agencies, funds and programmes would assist Governments by supporting national sustainable development strategies. The United Nations Development Group, led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), would play a major role in promoting integration of the follow-up to the Summit and in ensuring that operational activities were coordinated and focused on practical results. At the regional level, the regional commissions and other regional organizations would need to reorient their activities to pursue the goal of sustainable development more effectively. At the global level, the Plan of Implementation required UN system-wide policy coherence and consistency. It called for major changes in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, greater involvement of the Economic and Social Council in sustainable development-related work and stronger linkages with the governing bodies of UN agencies, funds and programmes. The Commission would have to integrate the cross-sectoral dimension of the various sectoral issues and focus on the interrelationship between them, devote more attention to reviewing implementation and suggesting measures to overcome obstacles and undertake implementation reviews and policy discussions and negotiations in alternate years. The Commission's methods of work would therefore vary considerably for the two alternating sessions. Changes in the methods of work could include the redesign of the multi-stakeholder dialogues, creating a forum for partnerships and regional implementation forums. The Commission's post-Johannesburg programme of work needed to be linked more directly with practical implementation and progress towards the agreed goals and targets. The programme for the next decade should have the flexibility to allow the Commission to address emerging challenges, which would require changing and modifying the programme of work over the years. The nature of the outcomes of the Commission was also expected to change, with decisions being more specific, action-oriented

and focused, based on comprehensive and up-to-date reports on implementation. The Commission could also provide a forum to nurture and foster partnerships. The Secretary-General submitted, in annexes to his report, specific proposals for meeting the new challenges through innovations in the work of the Commission; a proposed matrix of issues on which the Commission could focus; a proposed typical two-year work cycle of the Commission; proposed new organizational arrangements; a flow chart of the Commission's proposed two-year cycle; a flow chart of the Commission's transition work cycle (2003-early 2005); and lessons learned through major group participation in the Commission and the Summit processes.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a draft resolution on the future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission (**resolution 2003/61**) (see p. 842).

Implementation activities

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/253 [YUN 2002, p. 825], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on activities undertaken in implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development [A/58/210]. He provided an overview of initial actions taken by Governments, the UN system, intergovernmental bodies and major groups in follow-up to the World Summit and reviewed activities and proposals by various stakeholders aimed at meeting Summit goals and targets.

In his proposed 2004-2005 programme budget (see p. 1399), the Secretary-General had aligned the activities of the United Nations with the priorities identified by the General Assembly, one of which was the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The five UN regional commissions were integrating the Summit outcomes with their ongoing work and reorienting relevant programme activities towards focused implementation. The Economic Commission for Europe agreed to mainstream the dimensions of sustainable development into all areas of its work (see p. 1016) and the other commissions were taking steps to incorporate the Summit outcomes into their intergovernmental and expert group meetings. The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) [A/58/25] (see p. 1036) had called for full and concrete implementation of the Summit outcomes and agreed that UNEP should have an important role to play in helping countries to

develop policies and legislation to deal with environmental impacts associated with globalization.

A major international event was the International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech, Morocco, 16-19 June), organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with UNEP, which agreed on the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production.

The report noted that there was great enthusiasm and dynamism in the follow-up to the Summit and consensus on the sharper focus needed on implementation. An important thrust of implementation had been to identify obstacles and constraints and to share lessons learned and best practices at all levels. The widely varied actions and partnership initiatives being implemented at the national, regional and international levels demonstrated the imperative of strengthened cooperation and coordination within and between organizations of the UN system and other international institutions. The Commission on Sustainable Development, as the high-level intergovernmental body on sustainable development within the UN system, provided an important forum for reviewing progress in implementation, for sharing experiences and lessons learned in implementation at the country, regional and global levels and for integrating such experiences and lessons with policy review and guidance. The report concluded with several recommendations for General Assembly action.

CEB consideration. The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), at its first regular session (Paris, 25-26 April) [CEB/2003/1], reviewed the deliberations of its High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) at its fifth session (Rome, 26-27 March) [CEB/2003/4] on the UN system's follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. CEB asked HLCP to further elaborate its recommendations on the overall approaches to the follow-up to the Summit in the light of the Board's observations and to focus its further work on the substance of Summit follow-up. In that regard, CEB highlighted the need for: coherence and consistency and strong linkages among operational, regional and global levels; country ownership of the follow-up process; coordination support for capacity-building and full use of existing country-level mechanisms; a focus on sustainability and productivity, and on natural resources as the engine for sustainable growth; greater attention to the regional dimensions of the follow-up; and linking implementation to the broader processes of integrated

follow-up to UN conferences and summits, particularly the Millennium Summit.

At its second regular session (New York, 31 October-1 November) [CEB/2003/2], CEB endorsed the conclusions of HLCP at its sixth session (Rome, 18-19 September) [CEB/2003/7] on inter-agency collaborative arrangements for the integrated follow-up to Summit outcomes in the areas of freshwater, water and sanitation, energy, oceans and coastal areas, and patterns of consumption and production. Executive heads asked the Committee to take account of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see p. 847) in framing its future work programme on follow-up to the World Summit. The Board requested HLCP to continue to monitor implementation of inter-agency arrangements for follow-up to the Summit to ensure policy and programme coherence.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/485], adopted **resolution 58/218** without vote [agenda item 95].

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 of 20 December 2002 and 57/270 A and B of 20 December 2002 and 23 June 2003, respectively,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

Reaffirming the commitment to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Expressing its satisfaction that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, agreed on its new organization of work and multi-year programme of work, as well as new methods of work aimed at promoting and supporting implementation and the provision for the Commission to work in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, alternating review and policy years,

Noting the adoption by the Commission, at its eleventh session, of criteria and guidelines on partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in the follow-up to the Summit, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the continuing need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Noting the convening in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 June 2003, of an international expert meeting on a ten-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production,

Recognizing that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken in implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

2. *Reiterates* that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and other intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, as well as major groups, to take action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the Summit, and encourages them to report on concrete progress in that regard;

4. *Calls for* the implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the Summit and, to that end, for the fulfilment of the provisions relating to the means of implementation, as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and in that regard to report on such inter-agency cooperation and coordination activities to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council in 2004;

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission at its eleventh session to invite the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, to consider organizing regional implementation meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, and in this regard urges the regional commissions to take into account the relevant thematic clusters contained in the Commission's programme of work and to provide inputs as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session;

7. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Commission at its eleventh session to invite other regional and sub-

regional bodies and institutions within and outside the United Nations system to contribute to the preparations for the Commission's review and policy sessions and the intergovernmental preparatory meeting;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Commission at its twelfth session on the state of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on the basis of inputs from all levels, as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session, to submit:

(a) One report on each of the issues of water, sanitation and human settlement, to be addressed in an integrated manner during the session, which should contain a detailed review of the progress of implementation relating to those issues, taking into account, as appropriate, their interlinkages, while addressing the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission at its eleventh session;

(b) A report on overall progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, reflecting:

(i) Cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission at its eleventh session;

(ii) Progress made in the three dimensions of sustainable development and their integration;

(iii) Constraints, challenges, opportunities, best practices, information-sharing and lessons learned;

9. *Invites* the Bureau of the Commission at its twelfth session to continue to recommend to the Commission the specific organizational modalities through open-ended and transparent consultations to be conducted in a timely manner, following the established United Nations rules of procedure, bearing in mind that the activities during Commission meetings should provide for balanced involvement of participants from all regions, as well as for gender balance;

10. *Decides* to allocate the resources previously devoted to the former ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission to support the participation of representatives of member States of the Commission in one of their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle;

11. *Invites* donor countries to consider supporting the participation of experts from developing countries in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlement in the next review and policy sessions of the Commission;

12. *Decides* that resources released by the termination of the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, whose work has been transferred to the Commission, shall be used to support the work of the Commission;

13. *Encourages* Governments and organizations at all levels, as well as major groups, including the scientific community and educators, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities to support the work of the Commission and to promote and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including through voluntary multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives;

14. *Encourages* Governments to participate, at the appropriate level, through representatives of relevant departments and agencies responsible for water, sani-

tation and human settlement, in the next review and policy sessions of the Commission,

15. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit a summary report containing synthesized information on partnerships to the Commission at its twelfth session, in accordance with its programme and organization of work, noting the particular relevance of such reports in review years, with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practices and identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

16. *Requests* the Commission, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and as specified by the Commission at its eleventh session, to examine progress made in the cross-cutting issues in the relevant thematic clusters, utilizing inputs from all levels;

17. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation relevant to its mandate, in particular to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination;

18. *Urges* the Secretariat, in the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 8 above, to take due account of national reports;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", and requests the Secretary-General, at that session, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Commission on Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development held an organizational session on 27 January and the second part of its eleventh session in New York from 28 April to 9 May [E/2003/29]. The session's high-level segment focused on the Commission's future role in the context of follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 838) and included three interactive high-level round tables and five regional implementation forums. A multi-stakeholder dialogue addressed the role of major groups in relation to the future work of the Commission and implementation of the Summit outcomes.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption two draft resolutions: one on the Commission's future programme, organization and working methods (see below) and the other on preparations for an international meeting to review implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (see p. 871). It also recommended to the Council for adoption a decision on the report of the eleventh session and the provisional agenda for the twelfth. The Commission adopted a decision [dec. 11/1] recommending Council consider-

ation of the status of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that were accredited to the World Summit so that the Commission could benefit from their contributions, and another decision [dec. 11/2] asking the Council to consider the term of the Commission's Bureau for future sessions, taking into account the Commission's two-year work cycle.

The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the future role of the Commission (see p. 838); a 7 February letter from Austria [E/CN.17/2003/4], transmitting the executive summary of the third meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (Graz, Austria, 27-29 November 2002); proposed revisions to subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005 [E/CN.17/2003/4]; and the draft programme of work for the UN Division for Sustainable Development for the 2004-2005 biennium [E/CN.17/2003/5].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 49], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development [E/2003/29], adopted **resolution 2003/61** without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

Recalling also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), adopted at the World Summit,

Reaffirming in that regard the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences held and international agreements made since 1992,

Recalling that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation will build further on the achievements made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that the Plan expedites the realization of the remaining goals; to that end, committing itself to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration, efforts that will also promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development—economic development, social development and envi-

ronmental protection—as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars; and recalling that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission responsible for sustainable development within the United Nations system,

Reaffirming also the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development as stipulated in Agenda 21, General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eleventh session,

Future organization of work of the Commission

1. *Decides* that the organization of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development should contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at all levels;

2. *Also decides* that in order to fulfil its mandate the work of the Commission will be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which will include a review session and a policy session. The cycles will function as follows:

(a) The review sessions of the Commission, to be held in April/May for a period of two to three weeks in the first year of the cycle, will undertake an evaluation of progress in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle;

(b) The review sessions will include a high-level segment, an exchange of regional experiences, dialogues with experts, including scientific experts, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned, with a view to facilitating implementation, as well as capacity-building activities, such as learning centres and partnership fairs;

(c) The review sessions will undertake the above-mentioned evaluation on the basis of:

- (i) The reports of the Secretary-General on the state of implementation, which should reflect overall progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, based on information provided in particular in countries' reports and in reports by United Nations organizations and bodies as identified in subparagraph (ii) below, and on information from regions and subregions, as appropriate, as well as major groups. In addition, the reports of the Secretary-General on the state of implementation should contain a detailed review of progress in implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle at all levels, and should

also reflect new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

- (ii) The contributions of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility and international financial and trade institutions;
- (iii) The outcomes of regional and subregional meetings and activities, as appropriate;
- (iv) The contributions of major groups, including scientific experts, as well as educators, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on their results-oriented activities concerning the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(d) The review session evaluation should enable an improved understanding of priority concerns in the implementation of the selected thematic cluster of issues and facilitate an effective policy discussion in the course of the policy year with a view to strengthening implementation in those areas;

(e) The outcome of the review session will be a report, including a chairperson's summary, identifying constraints and obstacles and possible approaches and best practices for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(f) In the policy year, the Commission will convene an intergovernmental preparatory meeting for one week in New York in February/March to discuss policy options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year;

(g) The discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting will be based on the outcome of the review session, reports by the Secretary-General as well as other relevant inputs. Based on those discussions, the Chair will prepare a draft negotiating document for consideration at the policy session;

(h) The policy sessions of the Commission, to be held in April/May of the second year of the cycle, will take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues, taking account of the discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting, the reports of the Secretary-General and other relevant inputs;

(i) The review sessions and the policy sessions should mobilize further action by all implementation actors to overcome obstacles and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should address new challenges and opportunities and share lessons learned and best practices;

(j) Specific organizational modalities for Commission meetings will be recommended by the Bureau of the Commission through open-ended and transparent consultations conducted in a timely manner, following the established United Nations rules of procedure. Activities during Commission meetings should provide for balanced involvement of participants from all regions, as well as for gender balance;

3. *Decides*, in order to allow effective consideration of regional and subregional inputs throughout the implementation cycle and to ensure maximum flexibility:

(a) To invite the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to consider organizing regional implementation meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and in collaboration with other regional and sub-regional organizations and bodies, as appropriate, as well as the regional offices of funds, programmes and international finance and trade institutions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. Such meetings should preferably take place before the review session of the Commission, and should:

- (i) Contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- (ii) Focus on the thematic cluster of issues to be addressed in the ongoing implementation cycle;
- (iii) Provide input to the reports of the Secretary-General and the sessions of the Commission. Those inputs may include identification of obstacles and constraints, new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices;
- (iv) Provide for contributions from major groups, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) To invite the General Assembly to consider using the resources previously devoted to the former ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission to support the participation of representatives of member States of the Commission in one of their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle;

(c) To invite the regional commissions to provide other inputs to the review and policy sessions of the Commission and the intergovernmental preparatory meeting;

(d) To invite other regional and subregional bodies and institutions within and outside the United Nations system to contribute to the preparations for the review and policy sessions of the Commission and the intergovernmental preparatory meeting;

4. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that resources released by the termination of the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, whose work has been transferred to the Commission, could be used to support the work of the Commission;

5. *Invites* Governments, as well as organizations at all levels and major groups, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities that support the programme of work of the Commission and promote and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The results of such initiatives and activities should be an input to the work of the Commission, as appropriate;

6. *Decides* that the results of the work of the Commission could also include the sharing of best practices and lessons learned, capacity-building activities, exchange of experiences concerning the implementation

of sustainable development strategies, as appropriate, and partnerships that support the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

7. *Also decides* that Commission sessions should include high-level segments, involving ministers or their representatives with responsibilities relevant to the thematic cluster of issues under discussion. The segments should be organized so that ministerial leadership, oversight and guidance in decision-making concerning the outcomes of the sessions would be enhanced. High-level segments should include focused dialogue, with the active participation of agencies, funds, programmes and other organizations of the United Nations system, international finance and trade institutions, and representatives of major groups at the appropriate level, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

8. *Further decides* to organize the periodic consideration of sustainable development themes in regard to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the means of implementation, and invites the Commission to submit recommendations to the Council with regard to such themes, which may include recommendations to assist the Council with its work in the pursuance of paragraph 144 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including its role in promoting system-wide coordination;

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period after 2003

9. *Decides* to adopt the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period after 2003 as outlined in the annex to the present resolution;

10. *Also decides* that the implementation of that programme of work will be guided by the following considerations:

(a) The review and evaluation of the implementation of actions, commitments and targets will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the decisions of the Commission. The thematic clusters should be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Recognizing that all the issues identified in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are important, the implementation process should cover all those issues equally, and the selection of some issues during a given cycle does not therefore diminish the importance of the commitments undertaken with respect to the issues to be considered during future cycles;

(b) Means of implementation, as identified in Agenda 21 and chapter X of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, should be addressed in every cycle and for every relevant issue, action and commitment;

(c) Other cross-cutting issues, as referred to in the annex to the present resolution, should also be addressed in every cycle;

(d) African and other regional initiatives, as well as initiatives on small island developing States and least

developed countries, will be considered in every cycle with respect to all relevant issues, actions and targets;

(e) The Commission should focus on those issues where it can add value to intergovernmental deliberations on cross-sectoral and sectoral issues, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/191, in particular its paragraphs 3 (h), 21 and 23 thereof, as well as 139 (f) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(f) The Commission should take into account the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

(g) The Commission may decide to incorporate new challenges and opportunities related to implementation into its multi-year programme of work;

* * *

11. *Emphasizes* that in order to enable the Commission to perform the relevant requirements provided for in chapter XI of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in particular paragraphs 145, 147 and 148 thereof, an effective system of reporting is essential for reviewing, evaluating and monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, sharing of lessons learned and best practices, as well as identifying actions taken, opportunities for and obstacles and constraints to implementation;

12. *Encourages* countries to present, on a voluntary basis, national reports, in particular to the review sessions of the Commission, focusing on concrete progress in implementation, including achievements, constraints, challenges and opportunities;

13. *Encourages*, with the purpose of implementing paragraphs 130 and 131 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and paragraph 3 of Commission decision 9/4 of 27 April 2001, further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level, including integration of gender aspects, on a voluntary basis, in line with national conditions and priorities, and requests the Secretary-General to consider progress made in that regard, including further work on the above-mentioned indicators, in reporting to the Commission, as appropriate;

14. *Underscores* the fact that reporting to the Commission should be guided by the following considerations:

(a) Reporting should reflect the overall progress made on the three dimensions of sustainable development, focusing on the thematic cluster of issues for the cycle, and should include inputs from all levels, as appropriate, including the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and drawing on those sources listed in subparagraphs (ii) to (iv) of paragraph 2 (c) above;

(b) The existing reporting systems should be used to the fullest extent possible and will be expected to provide the bulk of information required;

(c) Reporting should focus on concrete progress in implementation, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development and their integration, and should include information-sharing, lessons learned, progress made and best practices, identifying

actions taken, constraints, challenges and opportunities;

(d) The effective use of indicators, as described in paragraph 13 above;

(e) Country reporting should provide information on the status of national strategies for sustainable development;

15. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission, working in close cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system:

(a) To take measures to streamline reporting in order to avoid duplication and unnecessary burden on States, including in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations reform;

(b) To provide focused information that highlights relevant trends, constraints, challenges and emerging issues;

(c) To provide technical assistance to countries, upon their request, in national reporting through regular and extrabudgetary sources;

16. *Invites* the secretariat of the Commission to improve national reporting guidelines and questionnaires with the intention of making reporting more efficient and less burdensome on countries and more focused on implementation, bearing in mind the provisions of the present resolution, in consultation with Governments, United Nations organizations and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, and to report to the Commission for its consideration;

* * *

17. *Invites*, further to paragraph 140 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility, and international and regional financial and trade institutions, within their mandates, to participate actively in the work of the Commission in order to inform it of their activities designed to further the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. To that end, it is essential to undertake further measures:

(a) To promote stronger linkages between global, regional and country-level implementation measures;

(b) To strengthen coherence and collaboration within and between organizations;

(c) To identify areas where further implementation measures may be required in order to improve progress;

(d) To mobilize and increase the effective use of resources from all sources for implementation;

(e) To enhance collaboration and coordination in all areas, including information exchange and knowledge-sharing on all aspects of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the ongoing process of United Nations reform and utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including through informal collaborative efforts, to further promote system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination to enhance the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to

report on its activities to the Economic and Social Council and the Commission;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/253, to include in his report proposals outlining an integrated and comprehensive response of the United Nations system to sustainable development, taking into account the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

* * *

20. *Decides* that contributions to the Commission from major groups, including the scientific community and educators, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while following the established rules of procedure and practices of the Commission, should be further enhanced, taking into account chapter XI of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, through such measures as:

(a) Strengthening major group involvement in the activities of the Commission, including through the participation of representatives of major groups at the appropriate level in an interactive dialogue during high-level segments, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Making multi-stakeholder dialogues more action- and implementation-oriented;

(c) Enhancing the participation and effective involvement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as promoting transparency and broad public participation;

(d) Striving for a better balance and better representation of major groups from all regions at the Commission;

(e) Active involvement in partnership-related and capacity-building activities at all levels, including the partnerships fairs and learning centres organized as part of the meetings of the Commission;

* * *

21. *Recalls* that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission to serve as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development, and reiterates that partnerships, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, those commitments;

22. Stresses that partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines, taking note in that regard of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for the Summit, including the Bali guiding principles, and General Assembly resolution 56/76 of 11 December 2001:

(a) Partnerships are voluntary initiatives undertaken by Governments and relevant stakeholders, such as major groups and institutional stakeholders;

(b) Partnerships should contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should not divert resources from the commitments contained in those agreements;

(c) Partnerships are not intended to substitute commitments made by Governments but to supplement the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(d) Partnerships should add concrete value to the implementation process and should be new, that is, they should not merely reflect existing arrangements;

(e) Partnerships should bear in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation;

(f) Partnerships should be based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, should include the mobilization of new resources and, where relevant, should result in the transfer of technology to, and capacity-building in, developing countries;

(g) It is desirable that partnerships have a sectoral and geographical balance;

(h) Partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In that regard, they should exchange relevant information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;

(i) Partnerships should be publicly announced with the intention of sharing the specific contribution that they make to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(j) Partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place;

(k) The leading partner of a partnership initiative should inform the national focal point for sustainable development of the involved country or countries about the initiation and progress of the partnership, and all partners should bear in mind the guidance provided by Governments;

(l) The involvement of international institutions and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in partnerships should conform to intergovernmentally agreed mandates and should not lead to the diversion to partnerships of resources otherwise allocated for their mandated programmes;

23. *Decides* that the provision of information and reporting by partnerships registered with the Commission should be transparent, participatory and credible, taking into account the following elements:

(a) The registration of partnerships should be voluntary and should be based on written reporting to the Commission, taking into account the provisions specified above. Reporting by partnerships should focus on their contribution to the implementation of the goals, objectives and targets of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Partnerships should submit a regular report, preferably at least on a biennial basis;

(c) The Secretariat is requested to make information available on partnerships, including their reports, through a database accessible to all interested parties, including through the Commission web site and other means;

(d) The Secretariat is requested to produce a summary report containing synthesized information on partnerships for consideration by the Commission, in accordance with its programme and organization of work, noting the particular relevance of such reports in review years;

(e) The Commission, during review years, should discuss the contribution of partnerships towards sup-

porting the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practices, identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints, and providing further guidance, including on reporting, during policy years, as necessary;

24. *Calls* for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up and facilitating new ones, including through such initiatives as partnerships fairs and learning centres, mindful of the importance of sharing information on existing activities, particularly across the United Nations system.

Annex

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Thematic cluster</i>	<i>Cross-cutting issues</i>
2004/2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Sanitation • Human settlements 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; education
2006/2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy for sustainable development • Industrial development • Air pollution/atmosphere • Climate change 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; education
2008/2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Rural development • Land • Drought • Desertification • Africa 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; education
2010/2011 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Chemicals • Waste management • Mining • Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; education
2012/2013 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests • Biodiversity • Biotechnology • Tourism • Mountains 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; education
2014/2015 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oceans and seas • Marine resources • Small island developing States • Disaster management and vulnerability 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; education
2016/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation 	

^aThis thematic cluster will remain as part of the multi-year programme of work as scheduled, unless otherwise agreed by the Commission (applies to clusters for 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2014/2015).

The Council, by **decision 2003/289** of 24 July, took note of the report of the Commission on its eleventh session and approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's twelfth (2004) session.

By **decisions 2003/295** and **2003/296** of 25 July, the Council took note of the Commission's decisions on the status of NGOs and the Bureau, respectively, and deferred further consideration of those matters to its resumed 2003 session. On 19 December, by **decision 2003/316**, the Council deferred consideration of those matters until its 2004 organizational session.

Education for sustainable development

In 2003, in accordance with resolution 57/254 [YUN 2002, p. 826], by which the General Assembly proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)—lead agency for promoting the Decade—developed a framework for a draft international implementation scheme for the Decade. The framework, which was presented orally to the Assembly in October [A/C.2/58/SR.15], gave a time line for activities in relation to the Decade up to December 2005 and outlined processes, players, outputs and strategies from which the implementation scheme would be developed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/486], adopted **resolution 58/219** without vote [agenda item 96].

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 36 of Agenda 21, on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”) on education, in particular its provision 124 (*d*) on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Recalling further its resolution 57/254 of 20 December 2002,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goal of achieving universal primary education, in particular that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling,

Taking note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cul-

tural Organization on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, identified education as one of the cross-cutting issues of its multi-year programme of work,

Emphasizing that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the Framework for a Draft International Implementation Scheme prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in coordination with other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, and further requests it to finalize the international implementation scheme, while clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, in particular the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum and the United Nations Literacy Decade, in consultation with Governments, the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;

2. *Reaffirms* that education for sustainable development is critical for promoting sustainable development, and in this regard encourages Governments to consider the inclusion of measures to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in their respective educational strategies and national development plans by 2005;

3. *Invites* Governments to promote public awareness of and wider participation in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, including through cooperation and initiatives engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Environment and sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development”.

Eradication of poverty

UN Decade for Eradication of Poverty

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/266 [YUN 2002, p. 828], the Secretary-General submitted a July report on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and a draft programme of action for observance of the International Year of Microcredit in 2005 (see p. 853) [A/58/179].

The report stated that progress in reducing poverty had been patchy and uneven, with the poorer developing countries, where economic and social development was needed most, still lagging behind the faster-growing developing countries on many fronts. On current performance, many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, were not likely to achieve the MDG of halving

the proportion of the world's people living on less than one dollar a day by 2015. However, there were some fresh developments and results that pointed towards progress in two key areas—governance at the international and national levels and poverty reduction strategies—considered to be among the preconditions necessary for countries to achieve rapid growth and poverty eradication.

The report also described a modest revival of official development assistance (ODA) levels, following the commitments made at the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development [YUN 2002, p. 953]. Although the levels were still well below their historical highs and considerably below the minimum levels needed to attain the MDGs, there was optimism that ODA would continue to rise.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/488], adopted **resolution 58/222** without vote [agenda item 98].

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recalling the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected groups, in particular in the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized and others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and

within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

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

2. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, that each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

3. *Recognizes* that, in order for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the goal of the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that they be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

4. *Reaffirms* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development;

Global response for the eradication of poverty

5. *Stresses* the importance of the follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and calls for the full and effective implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;

6. *Reaffirms* that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development; in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance by addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries; to that end, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support to structural and macro-economic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries; efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained with greater transparency and with the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes; and that a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development;

7. *Also reaffirms* that good governance at the national level is essential for poverty eradication and sustainable development, that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis

for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation, and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

8. *Recognizes* the major role that trade can play as an engine of growth and development and in eradicating poverty, regrets that the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September 2003, failed to produce an agreement, and calls for the resumption of the negotiations and the implementation of the Doha agenda, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001;

9. *Also recognizes* the responsibility of all Governments to adopt policies aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices at the national and international levels, and welcomes in this regard the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

10. *Underlines* that, together with coherent and consistent domestic policies, international cooperation is essential in supplementing and supporting the efforts of developing countries to utilize their domestic resources for development and poverty eradication and in ensuring that they will be able to achieve the development goals as envisioned in the Millennium Declaration;

11. *Reiterates* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that, to build support for official development assistance, cooperation is necessary to further improve policies and development strategies to enhance aid effectiveness, both nationally and internationally, requests, in that regard, those countries that made announcements of increased official development assistance at the International Conference on Financing for Development to make those resources available as soon as possible, and notes in this context the recent upward trend in official development assistance;

12. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts to reach the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001, encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

13. *Recognizes* that an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encour-

aging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

14. *Also recognizes* that creditors and debtors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations and that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with attaining poverty eradication, sustainable economic growth, sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and in that regard urges countries to direct those resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards these objectives;

15. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries;

16. *Recognizes* the crucial role that microcredit and microfinance could play in the eradication of poverty, the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of vulnerable groups and the development of rural communities, encourages Governments to adopt policies that support access to microcredit as well as the development of microfinance institutions and their capacities, and calls upon the international community to support those efforts;

Policies for the eradication of poverty

17. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural, local and community development, productive employment, population, environment and natural resources, water and sanitation, agriculture, food security, energy and migration, and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and strengthen their assets so as to achieve development, security and stability, and in that regard encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities, including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers;

18. *Underlines*, in this context, the importance of further integration of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in the national development strategies and plans, including the poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist, and calls upon the international community to continue to support developing countries in the implementation of those development strategies and plans;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of disseminating best practices for the reduction of poverty in its various dimensions, taking into account the need to adapt those best practices to suit the social, economic, cultural and historical conditions of each country;

20. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and the international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

21. *Also reaffirms* that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development;

22. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in empowering those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve the millennium development goal on universal primary education by 2015;

23. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious, contagious diseases on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in all regions, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to combating those diseases, takes note of the convening of the fifteenth International Conference on HIV/AIDS, to be held in Thailand from 11 to 16 July 2004, and in that regard welcomes the recent decision adopted by members of the World Trade Organization on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health;

24. *Emphasizes* the link between poverty eradication and improving access to safe drinking water, and stresses in this regard the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, as reaffirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

25. *Recognizes* that the lack of adequate housing remains a pressing challenge in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the urban areas in developing countries, expresses its concern at the rapid growth in the number of slum dwellers in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in Africa, stresses that, unless urgent and effective measures and actions are taken at the national and international levels, the number of slum dwellers, who constitute one third of the world's urban population, will continue to increase, and emphasizes the need for in-

creased efforts, with a view to significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020;

Specific initiatives in the fight against poverty

26. *Also recognizes* the important potential contribution of the World Solidarity Fund to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day and the proportion of the people who suffer from hunger;

27. *Reiterates its endorsement* of the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish the World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty and to promote social and human development in the developing countries, while stressing the voluntary nature of the contributions and the need to avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds and encouraging the role of the private sector and individual citizens relative to Governments in funding the endeavours, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

28. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to contribute to the World Solidarity Fund;

29. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in that regard, to take further measures to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund by establishing, on an urgent basis, the high-level committee whose task it is to define the strategy of the Fund and to mobilize resources to enable it to start its activities in the field of poverty alleviation;

30. *Acknowledges* the significance of greater involvement of developing countries in joint efforts, including those among developing countries, to overcome extreme poverty, and in this context takes note of the initiatives undertaken by the developing countries, including those announced at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

31. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional and subregional organizations for overcoming extreme poverty;

Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

32. *Stresses* the importance, as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, which has further exacerbated the continent's marginalization;

33. *Reaffirms its support* for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, encourages further efforts in the implementation of the commitments contained therein in the political, economic and social fields, and calls upon the developed countries and the United Nations system to continue to support the Partnership, the primary objective of which is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development on the basis of African ownership and leadership and enhanced partnerships with the international community, in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the Partnership;

34. *Calls upon* the Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to

implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

35. *Stresses* the significant challenge to poverty reduction posed by the geographical disadvantages of landlocked developing countries and the vulnerabilities of small island developing States, and in this context welcomes the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 28 and 29 August 2003, and supports the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius from 30 August to 3 September 2004;

The United Nations and the fight against poverty

36. *Calls* for the full implementation of its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, which provides a comprehensive basis for the follow-up to the outcomes of those conferences and summits and contributes to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular the goal of the eradication of poverty and hunger, and notes in this context the decision to review in 2005 the progress achieved in implementing all commitments made in the Millennium Declaration and that there is scope for a major event;

37. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and its associated funds, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

39. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

World Solidarity Fund

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/265 [YUN 2002, p. 831], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly, in April, the report of the UNDP Administrator on the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund [A/57/72-E/2003/53]. The Administrator described measures taken to operationalize the Fund, which was established by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] to eradicate poverty and promote social development in developing coun-

tries, and endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 57/265 [ibid., p. 831]. The Fund was set up in February as a UNDP trust fund and steps had been taken to operationalize and publicize it. A high-level committee was to be established to define the Fund's strategy.

The Economic and Social Council, in **resolution 2003/4** of 11 July (see p. 889), requested the UNDP Administrator, among other things, to mobilize the financial resources to enable the Fund to start its activities in poverty alleviation.

In **resolution 58/222** (see p. 849), the Assembly encouraged Member States, international organizations, the private sector and others to contribute to the Fund.

Rural poverty

Committee for Development Policy consideration. The Committee for Development Policy (New York, 7-11 April) [E/2003/33] considered the question of promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The Committee noted that rural development as a strategy to eradicate poverty should reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty, be multi-targeted, extend across disciplines and encompass demographic, economic, social, institutional and political factors. That integrated approach would differ from previous, more sector-specific experiences in rural development. Among the major causes of the persistence of rural poverty in most developing countries were low or stagnant economic growth in rural areas, often below the rate of population growth, inadequate investment in human capital, agricultural technology and infrastructure, and inadequacies in institutional mechanisms that addressed the needs of the rural poor. A fundamental reorientation of integrated rural development should focus on enhancing rural employment and income-generation, and more resources had to be directed towards those areas. The Committee reviewed the poor state of health and education in rural areas, excessive rural-urban migration and rural environmental degradation.

The Committee recommended that both developing countries and the international community should focus on four priority areas: expanding education and health services and providing incentives for rural people to take advantage of the services; increasing agricultural productivity and non-farm activities through the use of technology, diversification and access to inputs and credits; improving access to local, national and global markets; and examining all policies through "rural lenses" with a special focus on women.

Economic and Social Council consideration. In accordance with decision 2002/309 [YUN 2002, p. 814], the Economic and Social Council, at the high-level segment of its substantive session (30 June–2 July) [A/58/3/Rev.1], considered the theme “Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development”. The segment included four ministerial round-table discussions on: natural resources and rural development in developing countries; an integrated approach to the implementation of the MDGs in the area of rural development; global partnerships for rural development; and rural/urban interface and slums.

The Council had before it an April report by the Secretary-General on the theme of the high-level segment [E/2003/51]. He noted that three quarters of the world’s poor lived in rural areas of developing countries and depended mainly on agriculture and related activities for their livelihood. In 2025, when the majority of the world population was expected to be urban, 60 per cent of poverty would still be rural. Accelerated rural development was essential to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The international community had an important role to play in supporting national efforts and contributing to an enabling environment for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The Secretary-General stated that an integrated approach to rural development had to encompass economic, social and environmental dimensions and consist of mutually reinforcing policies and programmes to address the range of rural development-related issues, while meeting the specific conditions and requirements of a given country. He outlined the common elements of the integrated approach, which included creating an enabling macroeconomic policy environment conducive to poverty eradication and sustainable development in rural areas; reversing the decline in the flow of domestic resources and ODA; strengthening agricultural and food policies, improving agricultural productivity and fostering non-farm rural economic activities and diversification in production; and enhancing the access of poor rural people, especially women and smallholder farmers, to productive assets, such as land and water, and to financial services.

In a ministerial declaration of 2 July, the Council stated, among other things, that rural development should be pursued through an integrated approach, encompassing economic, social and environmental dimensions, taking into account the gender perspective and consisting of mutually reinforcing policies and programmes. It

should be balanced, targeted, situation-specific and locally owned, include local synergies and initiatives and be responsive to the needs of rural populations. The Council expressed its commitment to responding effectively to Africa’s special needs for achieving sustainable development and reiterated its support for the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) (see p. 937). It also recognized the special needs of the least developed countries, the small island developing States and the landlocked developing countries. The Council committed itself to implementing its ministerial declaration and called on civil society, the UN system and other relevant actors and organizations to support the realization of the objectives of integrated rural development. It agreed to review the implementation of the declaration in 2005.

On 24 July, the Council decided that the coordination segment of its 2004 substantive session would consider the theme of a coordinated and integrated UN system approach to promote rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development (**decision 2003/287**).

By **decision 2003/290** of 24 July, adopted on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2003/31], the Council took note of that Commission’s contribution to its consideration of the theme of the high-level segment, which was addressed by the Commission in its 2001 deliberations on national capacity-building in biotechnology [YUN 2001, p. 757], in which the Commission had underlined the need for national capacity-building in biotechnology to support efforts in rural development, including food security, agricultural productivity, health and environmental sustainability.

International Year of Microcredit, 2005

In response to General Assembly resolution 53/197 [YUN 1998, p. 785], by which the year 2005 was declared the International Year of Microcredit, the Secretary-General presented a draft programme of action for the observance of the Year [A/58/179].

The Secretary-General said that the International Year would give impetus to microcredit and microfinance programmes and activities around the world. The objectives of the Year might include building upon promoting the contribution of microcredit and microfinance towards achieving the MDGs and the goals of major conferences and summits; promoting awareness and understanding of microcredit and microfinance, and their roles in poverty eradication; identifying critical measures for Governments

to stimulate sustainable, pro-poor financial sectors and build strategies to position microcredit and microfinance as integral parts of a country's financial system; increasing the capacity of microcredit and microfinance service providers to address the needs of poor people more efficiently; and promoting and creating strategic partnerships between Governments, UN system organizations and other microcredit and microfinance stakeholders. The report also outlined activities and initiatives that could be undertaken at the national, regional and international levels.

The Secretary-General concluded that observance of the International Year would provide a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty, share good practices and further enhance programmes that supported sustainable pro-poor financial sectors around the world. Expanding outreach could contribute to achieving the MDGs, particularly the poverty reduction targets, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/488], adopted **resolution 58/221** without vote [agenda item 98].

Programme of Action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/197 of 15 December 1998, by which it proclaimed 2005 the International Year of Microcredit and requested that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit programmes in all countries, particularly the developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997, in which it emphasized the role of microcredit and microfinance as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes asset creation, employment and economic security and empowers people living in poverty, especially women,

Stressing that people living in poverty in rural and urban areas need access to microcredit and microfinance that enhance their ability to increase income, build assets and mitigate vulnerability in times of hardship,

Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments such as credit, savings and related business services in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

Recognizing the need to facilitate the access of people living in poverty, especially women, to microcredit and microfinance to enable them to undertake microenterprises so as to generate self-employment and contribute to achieving empowerment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the draft programme of action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;

2. *Emphasizes* that the observance of 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit will provide a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty, to share good practices and to further enhance financial sector developments that support sustainable pro-poor financial services in all countries;

3. *Invites* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Capital Development Fund to jointly coordinate the activities of the United Nations system regarding the preparations for and observance of the Year;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of scaling up microcredit and microfinance services and of using the Year as a platform to find ways of enhancing development impact and sustainability through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing national coordinating committees or focal points with responsibility for promoting the activities related to the preparations for and observance of the Year;

6. *Invites* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to collaborate in the preparations for and observance of the Year and to raise public awareness and knowledge about microcredit and microfinance;

7. *Recognizes* that access to microcredit and microfinance can contribute to achieving the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the targets relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Encourages* the holding of regional and sub-regional events on microcredit and microfinance, and, in this regard, welcomes the holding of the Asia-Pacific Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils, in Dhaka, from 16 to 19 February 2004;

9. *Encourages* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and foundations to make voluntary contributions and/or to lend other forms of support to the Year, in accordance with the guidelines for international years;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the preparations for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, in consultation with Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session under the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

Science and technology for development

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its sixth session in Geneva from 5 to 9 May [E/2003/31]. The session had as its

main substantive theme “Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society”, with particular attention to information and communication technologies (ICT) as pervasive tools of global impact with wide application and growing potential, and considered a report by the Secretary-General on the subject (see below). The Commission also heard country reports on ICT policies. It had before it notes by the Secretariat on: implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the Commission’s fifth (2001) session [E/CN.16/2003/3]; the Commission’s budget [E/CN.16/2003/4]; and the functioning of the Commission, including its role in coordinating science and technology for development [E/CN.16/2003/5]. The Commission recommended a draft resolution and three draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. It brought to the Council’s attention its decisions noting the Secretary-General’s synthesis report on its panels on technology development and capacity-building in a digital society (see below) [E/2003/31 (dec. 6/101)] and the report of the Commission’s Open-ended Working Group, the text of which it decided to include in its report [dec. 6/102].

Technology development and capacity-building

The Commission had before it a report by the Secretary-General [E/CN.16/2003/2] that provided an overview of the outcomes of three panels, convened during its 2001-2003 intersessional period, on its main substantive theme of technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society. The panels discussed indicators of technology development (Geneva, 22-24 May 2002), foreign direct investment and technology capacity-building for strategic competitiveness (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 15-17 October 2002), and enhancing strategic competitiveness in ICT (Luanda, Angola, 15-17 January 2003). The report summarized the main findings and presented the policy recommendations that emerged from the three panels.

The Commission decided that the substantive theme and focus of its work during the 2003-2004 intersessional period would be “Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the MDGs”.

On 9 May, the Commission took note of the report [dec. 6/101].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 48], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2003/31], adopted **resolution 2003/56** without vote [agenda item 13 (b)].

Science and technology for development

I. Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its theme “Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society”, and noting the findings, which indicate, inter alia, the following:

(a) Information and communication technologies create new opportunities to tackle the problems of poverty, poor communications, economic stagnation and environmental degradation. At the same time, they generate new challenges, especially for those countries in which technological capability, skill capacity and supporting infrastructure are not sufficiently developed,

(b) The diffusion of information and communication technologies throughout the world is extremely uneven. Many of the developing countries face significant barriers in access to and effective applications of information and communication technologies owing to limited telecommunications infrastructure, low computer literacy levels and lack of a regulatory framework,

(c) Information and communication technologies will continue to play an increasingly important role in development. Most developing countries are not in a position to compete with industrialized countries at the frontier of innovation. The most effective way of raising the level of technology in developing countries is therefore through acquisition of technology from the industrialized countries. The experience of successful economies suggests that foreign direct investment has a crucial role to play in the acquisition of technology by developing countries,

(d) Mere transfer and imports of new technology through foreign direct investment and other channels do not ensure technology acquisition. In order to build capacity to acquire and master technology, it is essential that Governments build a sound human resources capital and put in place credible and more focused long-term policies and regulations that encourage the active international transfer, effective diffusion and development of technology,

(e) In order to facilitate and promote information and communication technology use in developing countries, there is a need for an enhanced partnership between Governments, the private sector, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations,

Heeding the call of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2000 to work cooperatively to bridge the digital divide and to foster “digital opportunity”,

Decides to recommend the following actions for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the international community:

1. Governments are encouraged to undertake the following actions:

(a) Utilize the benchmarking tools developed by the Commission to assess their progress in information and communication technology development and to establish mechanisms involving all stakeholders for the

ongoing review, evaluation and analysis of information and communication technology strategies, programmes and projects, including strategies to facilitate the attraction of foreign direct investment in information and communication technologies;

(b) Accelerate investment in information and communication technology human capacity-building and promote computer literacy and lifelong learning;

(c) Build up physical and institutional infrastructure to facilitate information and communication technology development and improve efficiency and transparency through e-government;

(d) Develop policy initiatives in order to facilitate the building of information and communication technology infrastructure at the regional level;

(e) Develop strategies to facilitate access to and lower costs of information and communication technology hardware and software by providing tax incentives and encouraging the use and further development of free and open source software;

(f) Apply innovative approaches with a focus on shared infrastructure, public access facilities and the use of intermediaries and other services to interact with individuals who may lack functional literacy;

(g) Establish a regulatory framework that supports infrastructure development and accelerate deployment of appropriate and cost-effective technologies;

(h) Promote sustained measures to ensure the mastery and adaptation of technology by creating and/or strengthening local research and development units, promoting foreign direct investment with high-technology content and fostering collaboration in research and development between foreign investors and domestic research institutions;

(i) Develop strategies for local content development, including the use of icon-based programmes and the integration of traditional mass media, print, television and radio, with electronic media;

2. The international community is invited:

(a) To promote the compilation of more appropriate data on technology indicators, taking into account that there is a lack of data for many developing countries, which typically have a large informal sector so that more accurate information and communication technology and technology development indices could be developed;

(b) To reaffirm the right of developing countries to use to the full the flexibilities provided in international agreements such as the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights;

3. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is invited:

(a) To interact closely with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to promote greater information exchange and coordination of activities in the field of information and communication technologies in order to contribute to the World Summit on the Information Society and, as feasible, update its publication *Knowledge Societies: Information Technologies for Sustainable Development* in order to raise awareness on recent developments in the field of information and communication technologies;

(b) To play an active role within the United Nations system in the analysis, promotion and recommendation of applications of science and technology to meet

the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

(c) To ensure that the Science and Technology for Development Network further develops and expands into an inter-agency gateway on information on science and technology activities, which also links information technology networks at the regional, subregional and interregional levels to the network;

(d) To liaise with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to develop further its benchmarking tool in information and communication technologies, promote its use by other relevant United Nations agencies and consider the possibility of carrying out information and communication technology needs assessment for interested developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to help formulate or update national strategies and action plans for information and communication technologies, coordinating efforts with the United Nations Development Programme and other entities carrying out similar work in order to promote complementarity and efficiency.

II. New substantive theme and other activities

The Economic and Social Council

Welcomes the choice of the theme "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration" for the work of the Commission on Science and Technology during the intersessional period 2003-2004. In undertaking work on this theme, the Commission is invited to analyse policies and measures that would lead to:

(a) Improving the policy environment for the application of science and technology to development by identifying potential risks and benefits of new and emerging technologies;

(b) Strengthening basic and applied research in developing countries and international scientific networking;

(c) Strengthening technology support institutions and science advisory mechanisms, building human capacity, identifying new technologies and applications, and encouraging international collaboration to support research in neglected fields;

(d) Promoting affordable universal Internet access and building strategic partnerships in the field of science and technology for development and capacity-building for competitiveness, taking care to ensure complementarity with efforts under way by other organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the International Telecommunication Union and the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, and to promote efficiency. All entities of the United Nations system working in these areas are invited to collaborate and provide input to the work of the Commission on its main theme;

III. Strengthening coordination of science and technology for development in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with appreciation the work carried out by the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including at the regional and national levels,

Requests the Commission to take into account the need to integrate meaningfully and systematically a

gender component into all its programmes and to improve its collaboration with its Gender Advisory Board.

In other action, the Council, by **decision 2003/291** of 24 July, decided that the duration of the regular sessions of the Commission should be one week. By **decision 2003/293** of the same date, the Council took note of the report of the Commission on its sixth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the Commission's seventh (2004) session.

Information and communication technologies

In 2003, the United Nations continued to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially ICTs, were available to all, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2000 high-level segment [YUN 2000, p. 799] and the Millennium Declaration [ibid., p. 49]. In December, the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society adopted a Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action that outlined specific goals for bridging the digital divide. The second phase of the Summit was scheduled to be held in 2005. During the year, the UN ICT Task Force continued its substantive work as a global forum on integrating information on ICT into development programmes.

World Summit on the Information Society (first phase)

The first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 10-12 December) [WSIS-03/GENEVA/9(Rev.1)-E] was attended by political leaders from 175 countries, including 44 heads of State or Government, and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It adopted the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action for establishing the foundations for an information society for all, reflecting all the different interests at stake. In three round tables, the Summit discussed the themes of creating digital opportunities; diversity in cyberspace; and ICT as a tool for achieving the MDGs. It also considered reports on a number of multi-stakeholder events held in preparation for the Summit. Planned in two phases, the Summit was the first multi-stakeholder global effort to share and shape the use of ICTs for a better world. The second phase was to be held in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 2005.

Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action

The Declaration of Principles adopted on 12 December, "Building the information society: a

global challenge in the new Millennium", stated the commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society to enable people to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life. The challenge was to harness the potential of ICT to promote the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]. The Summit committed itself to realizing that vision, focusing especially on young people and paying attention to the needs of women and of vulnerable groups, particularly the poor in remote rural and marginalized urban areas and the peoples of developing countries and economies in transition. Recognizing that building an inclusive information society required new forms of partnerships and cooperation among Governments and other stakeholders to realize the goal of bridging the digital divide and ensuring harmonious, fair and equitable development for all, the Summit called for national and international digital solidarity.

The Declaration enumerated key principles for an information society for all, covering the role of Governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development: information and communication infrastructure as an essential foundation for an inclusive information society; access to information and knowledge; capacity-building; building confidence and security in the use of ICTs; creating an enabling environment at the national and international levels based on the rule of law within a supportive policy and regulatory framework; and the benefits in all aspects of life of ICT applications. The key principles also covered respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, freedom of the press, the ethical dimensions of the information society and international and regional cooperation. All stakeholders were invited to commit to the "Digital Solidarity Agenda" set forth in the Plan of Action (see below). The Summit participants also committed themselves to evaluate and follow up progress in bridging the digital divide and to assess the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the information society.

The Plan of Action, based on the common vision and guiding principles of the Declaration, had as its objectives to build an inclusive information society; to put the potential of knowledge and ICTs at the service of development; to promote the use of information and knowledge to achieve internationally agreed development goals; and to address new challenges of the information society at all levels. Specific targets for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs, to be achieved by 2015, included: connecting villages with ICTs and establishing community access

points; connecting universities, colleges, secondary schools and primary schools; connecting scientific and research centres; connecting public libraries, cultural centres, museums, post offices and archives; connecting health centres and hospitals; and connecting local and central government departments and establishing web sites and e-mail addresses. Other targets included adapting all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the information society, taking into account national circumstances; ensuring that all of the world's population had access to television and radio services; encouraging the development of content and putting in place technical conditions to facilitate the presence and use of all world languages on the Internet; and ensuring that more than half the world's inhabitants had access to ICTs within their reach.

The Plan of Action set out action lines under each of the key principles in the Declaration. It also established the Digital Solidarity Agenda for putting in place the conditions for mobilizing the necessary human, financial and technological resources for including all men and women in the emerging information society. The priorities of the Agenda would be: making national e-strategies an integral part of national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies; and mainstreaming ICTs into ODA through more effective donor information-sharing and co-ordination and sharing best practices and lessons learned. A task force was established, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, to review the adequacy of all existing financial mechanisms in meeting the challenges of ICT for development by December 2004, for consideration at the second phase of the Summit, with a view to creating a voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund. Countries were asked to consider establishing national mechanisms to achieve universal access in underserved rural and urban areas to bridge the digital divide. International performance evaluation and benchmarking should be developed to follow up on implementation of the objectives, goals and targets in the Plan of Action.

The Summit also adopted a resolution regarding the arrangements for the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis in 2005. It decided that a preparatory meeting would be held in the first half of 2004 to review those issues of the information society that should form the focus of the Tunis phase.

Summit preparations

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 56/183 [YUN 2001, p. 764] and 57/238 [YUN 2002, p. 836], the Secretary-General transmitted to

the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in April, the report of the ITU Secretary-General on preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society [A/58/74-E/2003/58]. The second meeting of the Preparatory Committee (Geneva, 17-28 February) agreed on working documents to serve as a basis for further discussions on the draft declaration and draft action plan and established an intersessional mechanism to advance negotiations on the draft texts, including a meeting to be held in Paris (15-18 July). The third meeting was scheduled to be held from 15 to 26 September.

Five regional preparatory meetings were held prior to the second preparatory meeting for Africa (Bamako, Mali, 25-30 May 2002); Europe (Bucharest, Romania, 7-9 November 2002); Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo, 13-15 January 2003); Latin America and the Caribbean (Bavaro, Dominican Republic, 29-31 January); and Western Asia (Beirut, Lebanon, 4-6 February) (see p. 1027). Other initiatives included a meeting of the League of Arab States (Cairo, Egypt, 16-18 June); the Mauritius Ministerial Conference on Access to Information and Communication Technologies for All (Pointe aux Piments, 3-5 April); and a meeting of francophone ministers (Rabat, Morocco, 3-5 September).

The Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2003/309** of 25 July, and the Assembly, by **decision 58/546** of 23 December, took note of the ITU report.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 July [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2003/19** [draft: E/2003/L.30/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 13 (b)].

World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001 and 57/238 of 20 December 2002, related in particular to the launching of the preparatory process of the World Summit on the Information Society, which will be held in two phases, in Geneva, from 10 to 12 December 2003, and in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005,

Welcoming the progress achieved in the preparatory process of the Summit,

Taking note of the contribution of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to the preparatory process of the Summit,

Encouraging all countries to continue to support the preparatory process,

Encouraging civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute further to the preparations for the Summit,

Reaffirming the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology for promoting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to

find effective and innovative ways to put this potential at the service of development for all,

Reaffirming also the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, in particular with regard to access to and transfer of technology, especially information and communication technologies and services, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Reaffirming further the need to harness synergies and to create cooperation among the various information and communication technologies initiatives, at both the regional and global levels, currently being undertaken or planned to promote and foster the potential of information and communication technologies for development by other international organizations and civil society,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society;

2. *Takes note also* of the results of the first two meetings of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, held in Geneva from 1 to 5 July 2002 and from 17 to 28 February 2003;

3. *Welcomes* the holding of the regional preparatory conferences in Bamako, from 25 to 30 May 2002, in Bucharest from 7 to 9 November 2002, in Tokyo from 13 to 15 January 2003, in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, from 29 to 31 January 2003, in Beirut from 4 to 6 February 2003, and in Cairo from 16 to 18 June 2003;

4. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional institutions, as well as the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, to intensify their work in the preparatory process of the Summit;

5. *Invites* countries to be represented at the highest political level at the two phases of the Summit;

6. *Encourages* civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute further to and participate actively in the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit, and in the Summit itself, according to the modalities of participation established by the Preparatory Committee;

7. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union, in the context of its role in the preparatory process for the Summit, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and other information offices of the United Nations system, to intensify its public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions;

8. *Invites* the international community to continue providing extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions, to the special trust fund established by the International Telecommunication Union to support the preparations for and the holding of the two phases of the Summit and to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the third meeting of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, to be held in Geneva from 15 to 26 September 2003, as well as in future meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the two phases of the Summit.

UN role

ICT Task Force. In April, the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council the first annual report [E/2003/56 & Corr.1] of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, which was established in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 762] to provide a global forum on integrating ICT into development programmes and a platform for promoting public and private partnerships to help bridge the digital divide and foster digital opportunity.

During the first year of its mandate, the Task Force had become a universally recognized forum for the ICT and development communities to interact in support of the MDGs with the use of ICT and had helped to develop a holistic policy response to the challenge of putting ICT in the service of development, paying special attention to Africa. The Task Force had also begun to address policy issues related to the integration of national e-strategies into overall development and poverty eradication strategies and had strongly advocated mainstreaming ICT into ODA policies and programmes. In the coming years, the Task Force would implement a focused strategy to support the realization of the MDGs. A major challenge was awareness-raising and advocacy for policy and regulatory reform, of which a key part would be to help shape an agenda for the World Summit on the Information Society and build a common platform for action.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 48], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2003/54** [draft: E/2003/L.46] without vote [agenda item 7 (i)].

Information and communication technologies for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the first annual report of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force,

Welcomes the achievements of the Task Force thus far, its orientation towards the use of information and communication technologies in the advancement of the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, its support of the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society and its work, including through its regional networks and working groups and regional nodes on information and communication technology issues.

Development of a system-wide ICT strategy

CEB consideration. At its sixth session (New York, 20-21 October) [CEB/2003/5], the CEB High-level Committee on Management noted progress made by ICT managers on a number of projects, including the UN system Extranet and the search engine, and encouraged all organizations in the

system that had not already done so to join the UN system Extranet so that it could truly become a system-wide tool for communication. The Committee also supported increased interaction between ICT managers and programme managers as part of the development of a system-wide ICT strategy and encouraged the exchange of policies on hardware replacement among organizations in the UN system.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/295 [YUN 2002, p. 836], the Secretary-General, as Chairman of CEB, submitted a report [A/58/568] on progress in the development of a comprehensive ICT strategy for the UN system. He reviewed the status of collaboration on ICT in the UN system, including the work of the ICT Task Force and the launch of joint work of the UN system and the Task Force, which concluded that a single e-policy for the UN system was not feasible, but coordination and information-sharing should be enhanced towards the elaboration of a system-wide ICT strategy. Regarding future actions, the report stated that to move towards enhanced coordination in ICT, work was needed in parallel at several levels, including that of ICT managers, senior managers and Member States, to overcome a number of basic roadblocks and impediments. In particular, more coherence was required with regard to budget, procurement and financial procedures, which tended to breed isolationist approaches to funding ICT programmes.

The report called for the elaboration of an action plan outlining the building blocks for a system-wide framework of ICTs, including milestones, benchmarks, resources, responsibilities and accountabilities for results. On the basis of consultation among CEB members and with inputs from the ICT Task Force, a proposal for such a strategy and accompanying action plan would be submitted to the Secretary-General in 2004.

By **decision 58/565** of 23 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on ICT for development would remain for consideration at its resumed fifty-eighth (2004) session.

Biotechnology

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/182 [YUN 2001, p. 761], the Secretary-General submitted a May report on the impact of new biotechnologies, with particular attention to sustainable development, including food security, health and economic productivity [A/58/76]. The report presented an overview of sectors and countries where biotechnology was making a significant contribution to economic productivity and human welfare and identified measures that needed to be taken in order to build indigenous

capabilities in biotechnology. It put forward proposals on the aspects of the transfer of such technologies, particularly to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, while taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries.

The Assembly, by **decision 58/545** of 23 December, took note of the Secretary-General's report and asked that it be circulated at the Global Biotechnology Forum (see below).

UNIDO action. The UNIDO Industrial Development Board, at its twenty-seventh session (Vienna, 26-28 August) [GC.10/4], taking note of preparations for the Global Biotechnology Forum [IDB.27/15], scheduled to be held in Concepción, Chile, from 2 to 5 March 2004, requested the UNIDO Director-General to prepare a draft final statement of the Forum and urged member States to participate in the Forum at the highest appropriate level and encourage the participation of all other stakeholders [GC.10/4 (IDB.27/Dec.8)]. The UNIDO General Conference (Vienna, 1-5 December) [GC.10/INF.4] encouraged the Forum to discuss ways of addressing the issues of accelerating the quest for and acquisition, adaptation and dissemination of innovations, creating capacity for utilizing biotechnology and establishing strategic partnerships [GC.10/INF.4 (GC.10/Res. 7)].

The General Assembly, by **decision 58/545** of 23 December, reiterated its invitation to the UNIDO Director-General to report to the Assembly's fifty-ninth (2004) session on the outcome of the Forum.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/481/Add.2], adopted **resolution 58/200** without vote [agenda item 91 (b)].

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the role that international cooperation on science and technology can play in addressing the technological gap and the digital divide between the North and the South,

Recognizing also the importance of North-South as well as South-South cooperation in the field of science and technology,

Recognizing further the vital role of new and emerging technologies in raising the productivity and competitiveness of nations and the need, inter alia, for capacity-building, measures promoting the transfer and diffusion of technologies to developing countries, and the promotion of private sector activities and public awareness of science and technology,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology activities of the organizations of the

United Nations system and the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in providing policy guidance, in particular on issues of relevance to developing countries,

Recognizing the role of information and communication technologies in promoting development as an important step towards addressing the challenges of bridging the digital divide, and in this regard welcoming the convening of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and its second phase, to be held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,

Welcoming the Commission's selection of the substantive theme "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration", for its work during the intersessional period 2003-2004, as welcomed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/56 of 24 July 2003,

Noting with appreciation the Commission's work during its intersessional period 2001-2003 on its theme "Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society", in particular the information and communication technologies development indices, which serve as an important contribution to the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of new biotechnologies, with particular attention to sustainable development, including food security, health and economic productivity,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/56, in which the Council invited the Commission to interact closely with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to promote greater information exchange and coordination of activities in the field of information and communication technologies in order to contribute to the World Summit on the Information Society,

1. *Urges* the relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology to work cooperatively so as to ensure that countries receive sound scientific information and practical advice to enable them to take advantage of these technologies, as appropriate, to promote economic growth and development;

2. *Takes note* of the proposal of the Secretary-General for an integrated framework for biotechnology development within the United Nations system, as contained in his report, and requests him to report further on the status of coordination between the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with a view to strengthening the coordination of activities in the area of biotechnology, in particular in the promotion of biotechnology within the United Nations system;

3. *Also takes note* of the publication entitled *Information and Communication Technology Development Indices*, and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in collaboration with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the International Telecommunication Union, to update that publication as part of its contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society, recalling General Assembly resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, in which the Assembly encouraged effective

contributions from and the active participation of all relevant United Nations bodies;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Commission and its secretariat within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are provided with the necessary resources to enable the Commission to better carry out its mandate;

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

Cybersecurity

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/481/Add.2], adopted **resolution 58/199** without vote [agenda item 91 (b)].

Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/239 of 20 December 2002 on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity, 55/63 of 4 December 2000 and 56/121 of 19 December 2001 on establishing the legal basis for combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, and 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001 and 57/53 of 22 November 2002 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

Recognizing the growing importance of information technologies for the promotion of socio-economic development and the provision of essential goods and services, the conduct of business and the exchange of information for Governments, businesses, other organizations and individual users,

Noting the increasing links among most countries' critical infrastructures—such as those used for, inter alia, the generation, transmission and distribution of energy, air and maritime transport, banking and financial services, e-commerce, water supply, food distribution and public health—and the critical information infrastructures that increasingly interconnect and affect their operations,

Recognizing that each country will determine its own critical information infrastructures,

Recognizing also that this growing technological interdependence relies on a complex network of critical information infrastructure components,

Noting that, as a result of increasing interconnectivity, critical information infrastructures are now exposed to a growing number and a wider variety of threats and vulnerabilities that raise new security concerns,

Noting also that effective critical infrastructure protection includes, inter alia, identifying threats to and reducing the vulnerability of critical information infrastructures, minimizing damage and recovery time in the event of damage or attack, and identifying the cause of damage or the source of attack,

Recognizing that effective protection requires communication and cooperation nationally and interna-

tionally among all stakeholders and that national efforts should be supported by effective, substantive international and regional cooperation among stakeholders,

Recognizing also that gaps in access to and the use of information technologies by States can diminish the effectiveness of cooperation in combating the criminal misuse of information technology and in creating a global culture of cybersecurity, and noting the need to facilitate the transfer of information technologies, in particular to developing countries,

Recognizing further the importance of international cooperation for achieving cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures through the support of national efforts aimed at the enhancement of human capacity, increased learning and employment opportunities, improved public services and better quality of life by taking advantage of advanced, reliable and secure information and communication technologies and networks and by promoting universal access,

Noting the work of relevant international and regional organizations on enhancing the security of critical information infrastructures,

Recognizing that efforts to protect critical information infrastructures should be undertaken with due regard for applicable national laws concerning privacy protection and other relevant legislation,

1. *Takes note* of the elements set out in the annex to the present resolution for protecting critical information infrastructures;

2. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including relevant United Nations bodies, to consider, as appropriate, inter alia, these elements for protecting critical information infrastructures in any future work on cybersecurity or critical infrastructure protection;

3. *Invites* Member States to consider, inter alia, these elements in developing their strategies for reducing risks to critical information infrastructures, in accordance with national laws and regulations;

4. *Invites* Member States and all relevant international organizations to take, inter alia, these elements and the need for critical information infrastructure protection into account in their preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations that have developed strategies to deal with cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures to share their best practices and measures that could assist other Member States in their efforts to facilitate the achievement of cybersecurity;

6. *Stresses* the necessity for enhanced efforts to close the digital divide, to achieve universal access to information and communication technologies and to protect critical information infrastructures by facilitating the transfer of information technology and capacity-building, in particular to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, so that all States may benefit fully from information and communication technologies for their socio-economic development.

Annex

Elements for protecting critical information infrastructures

1. Have emergency warning networks regarding cyber-vulnerabilities, threats and incidents.

2. Raise awareness to facilitate stakeholders' understanding of the nature and extent of their critical information infrastructures and the role each must play in protecting them.

3. Examine infrastructures and identify interdependencies among them, thereby enhancing the protection of such infrastructures.

4. Promote partnerships among stakeholders, both public and private, to share and analyse critical infrastructure information in order to prevent, investigate and respond to damage to or attacks on such infrastructures.

5. Create and maintain crisis communication networks and test them to ensure that they will remain secure and stable in emergency situations.

6. Ensure that data availability policies take into account the need to protect critical information infrastructures.

7. Facilitate the tracing of attacks on critical information infrastructures and, where appropriate, the disclosure of tracing information to other States.

8. Conduct training and exercises to enhance response capabilities and to test continuity and contingency plans in the event of an information infrastructure attack, and encourage stakeholders to engage in similar activities.

9. Have adequate substantive and procedural laws and trained personnel to enable States to investigate and prosecute attacks on critical information infrastructures and to coordinate such investigations with other States, as appropriate.

10. Engage in international cooperation, when appropriate, to secure critical information infrastructures, including by developing and coordinating emergency warning systems, sharing and analysing information regarding vulnerabilities, threats and incidents and coordinating investigations of attacks on such infrastructures in accordance with domestic laws.

11. Promote national and international research and development and encourage the application of security technologies that meet international standards.

Economic and social trends

The *World Economic and Social Survey 2003* [Sales No. E.03.II.C.1], prepared in mid-2003 by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), observed that the tentative recovery of the world economy from the global slowdown of 2001, which began in the second half of 2002, quickly faded, largely due to the geopolitical uncertainties associated with the looming confrontation in Iraq (see p. 333). Those uncertainties caused oil prices to rise, equity markets to plum-

met, and consumer and business confidence to fall to their lowest levels in a decade. Gross world product (GWP) increased by less than 2 per cent in 2002, marking a second consecutive year of below-potential growth. China, India and a number of transition economies were notable exceptions to the sub-par performance that characterized the majority of the world's economies. A global recovery was forecast for the second half of 2003, led by the developed countries, notably the United States, which was expected to provide a stimulus to the rest of the world. However, geopolitical uncertainties continued to pose a downside risk to the global economy in early 2003, as did a new economic shock—severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The most important factors that could pose a threat to short-term global growth were the nature and adjustment of the United States external deficit and the possibility of deflation in a growing number of countries.

Growth in the developed economies as a group, which had been below 1.5 per cent for two years, was expected to be only marginally stronger in 2003. Although the prospects for economic growth in North America were improving, the war in Iraq derailed an already anaemic recovery in the United States and moderated substantially the robust domestic demand that had offset external weaknesses in Canada. While some weaknesses could linger, a gradual rebound was expected in the second half of 2003, to be strengthened further in 2004. Business spending, rather than household consumption, was considered crucial for the strength of the recovery. Following growth of only 1 per cent in 2002, Western Europe was expected to recover somewhat in 2003. The region's extended period of below-trend growth had led to higher region-wide unemployment and increased fiscal deficits, which, together with the appreciation of the euro, would dampen the region's recovery. Japan's economy remained fragile, with gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast at less than 1 per cent in both 2003 and 2004. Despite an improvement in some economic indicators early in 2003, economic fundamentals continued to be weak, with the ongoing decline in asset prices aggravating severe problems in the banking sector and in the real economy. In Australia and New Zealand, GDP growth was expected to moderate in 2003 and 2004, although it would still exceed 3 per cent.

Growth in the economies in transition had decelerated in 2002 but was expected to strengthen again in 2003 and 2004. Economic growth in the Central and Eastern European countries, which decreased from 2.7 per cent in 2001 to 2.5 per cent in 2002, was expected to strengthen to about

3 per cent in 2003. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) economies continued to be largely sheltered from global economic uncertainties, having recorded strong growth each year since 2000. GDP growth for the region was projected at 4.5 per cent in 2003 (compared with 4.7 per cent in 2002).

In the developing countries overall, economic growth was expected to accelerate slightly to 3.5 per cent in 2003, compared with 3.2 per cent in 2002. However, not all regions were participating in that mild recovery: Latin America would record only modest growth; both East Asia and Western Asia would decelerate; and Africa would grow at only 3 per cent. The only bright spots in the outlook were South Asia, where growth was expected to reach 5.75 per cent in 2003, and China, which would continue its strong performance of recent years.

The *Trade and Development Report, 2003* [Sales No. E.03.II.D.7], published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), stated that the global economy was experiencing an anxious time. The long-anticipated rebound in the United States continued to be delayed and there were concerns that the imbalances and excesses created during the high-tech boom of the 1990s could result in a long period of erratic and sluggish growth. Adverse consequences for the developing countries, even the most resilient, were unavoidable. Brighter political conditions could help avoid a repetition of the previous year's recession in Latin America, but any recovery there would be fragile. Africa appeared to be relatively insulated from global trends, but the continued weakness of many commodity prices meant that it might not be able to repeat its performance of the preceding two years. Given the current level of development cooperation and the structural weaknesses across the region, there was growing consensus that it would be impossible to meet the MDGs even under the most optimistic growth scenario for the world economy.

A report on the world economic situation and prospects [Sales No. E.04.II.C.2], prepared jointly by DESA and UNCTAD, stated that at the end of 2003 the world economy was gaining momentum; GNP for the year as a whole had risen to 2.5 per cent. Despite some lingering uncertainties and downside risks, the recovery was expected to strengthen and broaden further, raising global economic growth to 3.5 per cent in 2004. The recovery was being driven mainly by the United States but with increasing contributions from a number of other economies, notably China. The acceleration in growth was greater in the developed countries than in the developing countries. While growth was highest in North America, Asia and Oceania

achieved the greatest improvement because of Japan's return to productive growth. Overall, the Western European economies performed less well than in 2002, but improved as the year progressed. The CIS countries rebounded solidly from the deceleration in 2002 and growth in other economies in transition also improved. The international economic environment for most developing countries improved during 2003, but the long-term downward trend in the real prices of commodities and the pro-cyclical nature of international capital flows would continue to challenge many of them over the longer term. In Africa, progress in political and economic governance and in achieving macroeconomic stability, along with other positive factors, characterized the economy in 2003. Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean was expected to recover, boosted by the improvement in both external conditions and the domestic economic policy environment. In East Asia, the external sector, private consumption, public spending and business investment were all contributing to a strong recovery. In South Asia, the economic spillover from the war in Iraq was relatively modest and favourable agricultural production, rising rural incomes, increased exports, low interest rates, growing remittances and the improved security situation would continue to support a broad recovery in most countries. The prospects for Western Asia depended on developments in Iraq and on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Growth in the oil-exporting countries of the region was expected to accelerate. A key feature of the global recovery was the rising economic weight of the two most populous countries, China and India, which were growing at a rate more than twice the world average. Continued strong growth in those two large low-income countries would benefit the world economy as a whole. However, their size meant that their fast growth would have far-reaching implications for international patterns of trade, production and financing, and for the global supply and demand of energy and commodities.

Human Development Report 2003

The *Human Development Report 2003* [Sales No. 03.III.B.1], prepared by UNDP, assessed progress made towards achieving the MDGs of halving extreme poverty by 2015 and advancing other areas of human development. It also reviewed how the MDGs were transforming development, as Governments, aid agencies and civil society reoriented their work around them. The *Report* found that, although much of the world was on track for some of the Goals, when progress was broken down by region and country and within coun-

tries, it was clear that a huge amount of work remained. Many had seen life expectancy plummet due to HIV/AIDS, and some of the worst performers—often torn by conflict—were seeing school enrolments shrink and access to basic health care fall. Nearly everywhere the environment was deteriorating. The *Report* also assessed where the problems in achieving the MDGs were, analysed what needed to be done to reverse the setbacks and made proposals for accelerating progress everywhere towards achieving all the Goals. Building on the commitments made at the 2002 Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development [YUN 2002, p. 953], the *Report* also set out a Millennium Development Compact that provided a broad framework for how national development strategies and international support from donors and others could be better aligned, commensurate with the scale of the challenge of the MDGs.

In addition to providing a critical analysis of a different theme each year, the *Report* assessed the state of human development across the globe, involving country data that focused on human well-being, not just economic trends. In 2003, it ranked 175 countries in its human development index by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted per capita income, among other factors. Of the 175 countries listed, 55 were in the high human development category, 87 were in the medium category and 33 were in the low category. The *Report* also included a special set of tables containing indicators relating to the MDGs.

UNDP consideration. In June [E/2003/35 (dec. 2003/21)], the UNDP/United Nations Population Fund Executive Board took note of a report of the UNDP Administrator [DP/2003/17] on strengthening consultations with Member States on the *Human Development Report*, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/264 [YUN 2002, p. 841]. The Administrator made proposals for improving the consultation process by increasing the number and enhancing the quality of consultations, and by holding special consultations on specific issues.

By **decision 2003/225** of 11 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report.

Development policy and public administration

Committee for Development Policy

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP), at its fifth session (New York, 7-11 April) [E/2003/33], considered the issues of promoting an inte-

grated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development (see p. 852) and global public goods and financial mechanisms in the pursuit of sustainable development. It also reviewed the list of least developed countries (LDCs), including criteria for their identification (see p. 867).

Concerning global public goods (GPGs) and innovative financial mechanisms in the pursuit of sustainable development, CDP focused on the contribution of the perspective on GPGs to thinking regarding development in developing countries and to accelerated progress towards meeting the MDGs. The Committee considered GPGs as those goods whose benefits had strong qualities of publicness and were global in terms of countries, people and generations. It agreed that GPGs had the potential for generating a better formulation of effective, efficient and equitable paths towards development. However, the concept needed further clarification. Limited until recently to the provision of national or local public goods, the concept had been extended to the international context. CDP suggested: raising public awareness about the nature and role of GPGs; developing new institutional and finance arrangements; identifying the financing gap and developing realistic estimates of financing requirements for the provision of GPGs by category; and considering new potential sources to supplement existing resources to help ensure the provision of GPGs and increasing the role of the private sector.

On 24 July, the Economic and Social Council (**decision 2003/281**) took note of chapters I, II, III and V of the CDP report on its fifth session.

Public administration

As decided by the Economic and Social Council on 28 January (**decision 2003/207**), the Committee of Experts on Public Administration held its second session (New York, 7-11 April) [E/2003/44]. The Committee had before it Secretariat reports on: status of and trends in the development of e-Government [E/C.16/2003/2]; basic data on the public sector [E/C.16/2003/3]; strategies for high-quality staffing in the public sector [E/C.16/2003/4]; and the role of public administration in mainstreaming poverty reduction strategies within the MDGs [E/C.16/2003/5].

The Committee concluded that it was an overarching priority for all countries to revitalize and revalidate public administration. Given the importance of efficient public administration systems for the attainment of social development goals, the Committee recommended that the

Economic and Social Council establish linkages between the Committee's work and that of the Commission for Social Development. The Council should bring the issue of governance and public administration to the forefront of the development agenda and consider devoting its next high-level segment to that topic. The Committee further recommended that public administration issues should become an integral part of the process of follow-up to UN conferences and summits, and that the Committee could serve as a valuable source of advice to the intergovernmental machinery in that respect.

The Committee also reviewed and commented and made recommendations on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance. In particular, it recommended that the Secretariat continue to provide, at the request of Member States, technical advisory support for enhancing the quality of personnel in the public sector; reinforcing governance and public administration systems and institutions; and fostering transparency and accountability, as well as reconstructing public administration in post-conflict countries and in situations of decentralized governance. The Secretariat should further analyse and delineate the role of the State as enabler and user of knowledge and technology to support and encourage innovation throughout public administration and society as a whole. It should also continue its work on basic data on the public sector and expand the number of indicators, in partnership with agencies and institutes currently working on the topic, focusing in particular on government efficiency, transparency and participation.

The Committee commended the *World Public Sector Report* as being an extremely valuable tool for policy makers and practitioners in Member States; recommended that the Secretariat should focus, in its next issue, on human resources development; and advised the Secretariat of the usefulness of having the publication translated into other languages. The Committee stressed the importance of capitalizing on the successes of the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN) by expanding its reach to the subregional level in order to strengthen the capacity of subregional institutions in public administration.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 49], the Economic and Social Council [draft: E/2003/L.45, orally revised] adopted **resolution 2003/60** without vote [agenda item 13 (g)].

Public administration and development

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling its resolution 2002/40 of 19 December 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its second session;

2. *Reiterates* that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration, at both the national and the international levels, has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and in that context stresses the need to strengthen national public sector administrative and managerial capacity-building, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. *Reiterates also* that strengthening public administration and the State are at the forefront of the development agenda to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that revitalizing public administration is considered to be one of the essential components of economic and social development, and in this context decides to explore the possibility of considering this theme at a future high-level segment;

4. *Decides* that the Committee shall meet annually, instead of biennially, for one week, given the need to adapt to the ever-changing environment and owing to the fact that rapidly emerging issues need to be addressed in a timely manner, with a focus on the need to modernize in all countries public sector human resource systems, strengthen systems of accountability and transparency and explore the potential of e-government to develop innovative public administrative tools;

5. *Decides also* that the Committee, within the framework decided upon in General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, should contribute to the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

6. *Approves* the following agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 29 March to 2 April 2004:

1. Revitalizing public administration.
2. Public sector institutional capacity for African renewal.
3. Analysis of existing basic data on the public sector.
4. Review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance.

7. *Urges* the Committee to continue to work in accordance with its mandate.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/277 [YUN 2002, p. 843], the Secretary-General submitted an 11 July report on the role of public administration in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49]. International organizations and bodies had been invited to provide information on: initiatives undertaken to improve the capacity of the public sector of Member States to meet the MDGs; and innovative and successful practices that contributed directly to those Goals. The information collected revealed five areas of interventions that were conducive to the attainment of the MDGs: decentralization; transparency and accountability; “en-

gaged governance” or mainstreaming citizens’ voices in public policy; the application of ICT; and capacity-building in statistics. The report found that the first four reforms reinforced each other to transform traditional public administration into a public sector that emphasized participation, partnership and openness. Describing capacity-building in statistics as a cross-cutting need, the Secretary-General stated that, to help replicate best practices, the United Nations would regularly document those practices for knowledge transfer, while offering technical and advisory services to Member States for capacity-building.

Global Forum. On 12 September [A/58/383], Morocco transmitted to the Assembly the text of the Marrakech Declaration, adopted by the Fourth Global Forum on Reinventing Government (Marrakech, 11-12 December 2002), devoted to the theme “Citizens, Businesses and Governments: dialogue and partnerships for democracy and development”.

Santa Cruz Consensus. On 28 July [A/58/193], Bolivia transmitted to the Secretary-General the texts of the Santa Cruz Consensus and the Ibero-American Charter for the Public Service, adopted at the fifth Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Public Administration and State Reform (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 26-27 June 2003).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/495 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 58/231** without vote [agenda item 12].

Public administration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 53/201 of 15 December 1998, 56/213 of 21 December 2001 and 57/277 of 20 December 2002 on public administration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/45 of 20 December 2001,

Stressing the need for capacity-building initiatives aimed at institution-building, human resources development, strengthening financial management and harnessing the power of information and technology,

Recalling that 2006 will mark the tenth anniversary of the resumed fiftieth session of the General Assembly, on public administration and development,

Welcoming the adoption of the Ibero-American Charter for the Public Service at the fifth Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Public Administration and State Reform, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on 26 and 27 June 2003,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the generosity of the Government of Mexico in hosting the fifth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, held in Mexico City from 3 to 7 November 2003,

Welcoming e-Government initiatives as a tool to promote development,

Welcoming also the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of public administration in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

2. *Reiterates* that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration, at both the national and international levels, has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and in that context stresses the need to strengthen national public sector administrative and managerial capacity-building, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the commemoration of 23 June as United Nations Public Service Day and the granting of the United Nations Public Service Awards, which provide motivation for public servants all over the world to enhance public administration as a tool for development, and in this regard encourages Member States to participate in the award process by nominating candidates;

4. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the Marrakech Declaration, adopted by the Fourth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 11 to 13 December 2002;

5. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government in Seoul in 2005;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make proposals for commemorating the tenth anniversary of the resumed fiftieth session of the General Assembly, on public administration and development, during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, in 2006;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to support information exchange and research and to disseminate successful practices and advisory services in public administration that contribute to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue supporting the e-Government initiatives in the African, Asian, Central American and Caribbean regions as a tool for development;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

2001-2010, adopted at the Third UN Conference on the LDCs in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 770] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 55/279 in July of that year [ibid., p. 771]. In April, CDP undertook the triennial review of the official LDC list, recommending one country for addition to and two countries for future graduation from the list (see below).

LDC list

The number of countries officially designated as LDCs increased to 50, when the Economic and Social Council endorsed the CDP recommendation to add Timor-Leste to the list.

The full list of LDCs comprised: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia.

Triennial review

CDP, which was responsible for adding countries to or graduating them from the LDC list, conducted, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 [YUN 1998, p. 1262], a triennial review of the list of LDCs at its fifth session in April [E/2003/33]. As requested by the Council in resolution 2002/36 [YUN 2002, p. 847], the Expert Group Meeting on the Review of the List of Least Developed Countries (New York, 23-24 January) continued to revise the criteria for identification of LDCs, reviewed eligibility for inclusion and graduation, examined the situation of certain economies in transition and discussed the issue of smooth graduation from LDC status.

Based on the Expert Group proposals and its own review, CDP adopted a three-year average of \$750 per capita as the threshold for inclusion in the category under the gross national income per capita criterion and increased the margin for graduation from 15 to 20 per cent above the threshold for inclusion, making the graduation threshold a three-year average of \$900 per capita. The Committee agreed that the threshold for inclusion with regard to both the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index criteria should be chosen so that three quarters of the

Developing countries and transition economies

Least developed countries

The special problems of the officially designated LDCs were considered in several UN forums in 2003, especially through the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme Action for the LDCs for the Decade

most disadvantaged countries would be eligible under each of those criteria. The margin between the thresholds for inclusion and graduation should be decreased from 15 to 10 per cent for those indicators.

Applying those thresholds, the Committee concluded that Timor-Leste qualified for inclusion in the list of LDCs; Cape Verde and Maldives qualified for graduation from the list in 2006; and Samoa was eligible to be considered for graduation in 2006. The Committee emphasized the need for a smooth transition for countries that graduated from the list and called on the international community to give urgent attention to the matter. Since all of the countries that qualified or were eligible for graduation were small island developing States, CDP considered it imperative that the international meeting on small island developing States in 2004 should make progress in formulating policies and actions to address the development challenges faced by that group of countries, particularly those that qualified for graduation from LDC status.

Economic and Social Council action. By **decision 2003/280** of 24 July, the Economic and Social Council included Timor-Leste in the list of LDCs. By **decision 2003/281** of the same date, the Council deferred consideration of the review of the list of LDCs, including the question of graduating Cape Verde and Maldives, to a resumed session. The Secretary-General was asked to provide the Council with technical support in that regard.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 58/112** [draft: A/58/L.36 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 12].

Report of the Committee for Development Policy

The General Assembly,

Noting that Timor-Leste became a member of the United Nations on 27 September 2002,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decisions 2003/280 and 2003/281 of 24 July 2003 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy,

Noting that Timor-Leste has given its consent to be included in the list of least developed countries,

Endorses the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that Timor-Leste be added to the list of the least developed countries.

Programme of Action (2001-2010)

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/276 [YUN 2002, p. 846] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/33 [ibid., p. 845], the Secretary-General issued a May report [A/58/86-E/2003/81] on implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs, adopted at the

Third United Nations Conference on the LDCs (LDC-III) in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 770]. The report chronicled the policies adopted by LDCs and progress made and challenges remaining in implementing the Brussels Programme of Action. It also examined the decisions and programmes undertaken by the international development partners, including the UN system, the Bretton Woods institutions, other multilateral organizations, the donor community, civil society and the private sector, in mainstreaming the Brussels Programme of Action.

The report concluded that LDC actions to fulfil the Brussels Programme of Action commitments were yet to materialize, given the limited time since its adoption, the lack of data, the complexity of the issues involved and capacity constraints. While LDC Governments had shown a willingness to reverse the fortunes of their peoples, the right economic and social policies had to be pursued and suitable international conditions should prevail in order for them to make meaningful progress towards achieving the Programme of Action's commitments and targets. In addition, only a few LDCs had established national forums or designated national focal points, both of which were crucial for facilitating follow-up and monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The report recommended a number of actions to address the challenges that were impeding implementation of the Programme of Action. They covered: the need for international support; a clearly defined operational plan designating the roles of stakeholders, sequenced priorities and coordinated actions at the national, regional/subregional and global levels; and the effective functioning of arrangements for follow-up, coordination, monitoring and review.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 July [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2003/17** [draft: E/2003/L.15/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)].

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001 on the establishment of a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

Recalling further its resolution 2002/33 of 26 July 2002, in which it took note of the oral report of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small

Island Developing States on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

2. *Expresses its deep concern* over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action, and expresses its expectation of more vigorous implementation by all partners;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, while stressing the central role of the Economic and Social Council in the coordination of actions in the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action, to take appropriate measures to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States so that it can fulfil its functions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001;

4. *Urges* all Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and invites the international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations to extend to the Office of the High Representative their full support for the fulfilment of its mandate, including through staffing support;

5. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its annual assessment at the substantive session of the Council, recognizes in this regard the critical importance of the participation of the least developed countries in the assessment process of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to make, in consultation with Member States, recommendations to facilitate the participation of the delegations of the least developed countries at the annual substantive sessions of the Council and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

6. *Reiterates* that the Programme of Action offers a framework for partnership, based on mutual commitments by least developed countries and their development partners to undertake concrete actions in a number of interlinked areas set out in the Programme of Action;

7. *Calls upon* least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to continue to fulfil their commitments and to promote the implementation of the actions contained in the Programme of Action by translating them into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, in particular poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, with the involvement of civil society, including the private sector, on the basis of a broad-based inclusive dialogue, as well as to continue to promote an enabling environment for the effective mobilization and utilization of resources consistent with paragraph 82 of the Programme of Action;

8. *Calls upon* all development partners of the least developed countries, including multilateral financial institutions, to continue to fulfil their commitments regarding the effective and expeditious implementation of the Programme of Action, and urges the de-

veloped countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to implement effectively their commitments on official development assistance to the least developed countries, as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action;

9. *Invites* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and all other international organizations, within their respective mandates, to support, as a priority, the implementation of the Programme of Action, including programmes of financial and technical co-operation devoted to least developed countries in support of their national development programmes, including their poverty reduction strategies;

10. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations and the Group of Eight to bridge the digital divide that has further marginalized the least developed countries, particularly in the area of information technology, calls upon the international community to address the special needs of the least developed countries therein, and in this regard invites the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society to adopt concrete actions to bridge the digital divide in the least developed countries;

11. *Invites* the forthcoming Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003, to address the marginalization of the least developed countries in international trade and to adopt further measures to integrate effectively the least developed countries into the multilateral trading system and the global economy;

12. *Invites* the members of the World Trade Organization to facilitate and accelerate accession to the organization for those least developed countries that are candidates by expeditiously implementing the guidelines to facilitate and accelerate the accession of the least developed countries to the World Trade Organization, which were adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 10 December 2002;

13. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit his annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in such a way as to make it more analytical and results-oriented by putting greater emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The Council, by **decision 2003/287** of 24 July, decided that the high-level segment of its 2004 substantive session would consider the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010".

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/17 (above), the Secretary-General submitted a 24 October report [A/58/532] containing recommendations for facilitating the participation of delegations of LDCs at the Council's annual substantive sessions.

Trade and Development Board. The UNCTAD Trade and Development Board (TDB), at its fiftieth session (Geneva, 6-17 October) [A/58/15], having considered the third progress report of the UNCTAD secretariat on UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs [TD/B/50/3], an UNCTAD secretariat note on preliminary impact assessment of the main recent initiatives in favour of LDCs in the area of preferential market access [TD/B/50/5 & Corr.1] and a conference room paper describing progress on the implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance for LDCs (IF), adopted agreed conclusions [A/58/15 (agreed conclusions 476(L))] in which it urged the secretariat to work with donors to reverse the declining share of LDCs in UNCTAD's technical cooperation resources and intensify its activities in support of LDCs and to report thereon, including on IF-related activities, and to continue to contribute to the Economic and Social Council's reviews of the Brussels Programme of Action. It urged development partners and others in a position to do so to implement market access commitments in favour of LDCs, give priority to enhancing LDCs' supply capacities and address bottlenecks hindering market entry. The secretariat should also undertake further work on how to enhance the benefits to LDCs from preferential market access and other international support measures. In the run-up to UNCTAD XI, to be held in 2004, the secretariat should address the issues of supply capacities and diversification with a view to enabling LDCs to benefit more effectively from preferential market access. TDB encouraged the secretariat to intensify activities for strengthening country ownership of the IF process and called for donor support through the IF Trust Fund. In the area of commodities, the secretariat should strengthen activities in commodity diversification, technical assistance and capacity-building. TDB invited bilateral donors to regularly replenish the UNCTAD Trust Fund for LDCs and asked the secretariat to mobilize adequate extrabudgetary resources for the participation of LDCs in the UNCTAD XI preparatory process and in the conference itself; donors were invited to earmark contributions for that purpose. TDB called for further strengthening of cooperation between UNCTAD and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second

Committee [A/58/492], adopted resolution **58/228** without vote [agenda item 102].

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and its resolution 57/276 of 20 December 2002 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Reaffirming its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, in which the Council decided to establish a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/17 of 22 July 2003, in which the Council took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council decision 2003/287 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council adopted the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" as the theme of its high-level segment of 2004,

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

1. *Expresses its deep concern* over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and expresses its expectation of more vigorous implementation by all partners;

2. *Reiterates* that the Programme of Action offers a framework for partnership, based on mutual commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners to undertake concrete actions in a number of interlinked areas, as set out in the Programme of Action;

3. *Calls upon* the least developed countries to continue, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote the implementation of the actions contained in the Programme of Action by translating them into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, in particular poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, with the involvement of civil society, including the private sector, on the basis of a broad-based inclusive dialogue, as well as to continue to promote an enabling environment for the effective mobilization and utilization of resources consistent with paragraph 82 of the Programme of Action;

4. *Calls upon* the development partners of the least developed countries, including the multilateral financial institutions, to fulfil their commitments regarding the effective and expeditious implementation of the Programme of Action, and urges the developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to effectively implement their commitments on official development assistance to the least developed countries, as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action;

5. *Urges* the least developed countries and their development partners to make the Programme of Action an effective tool for the implementation of the poverty reduction strategies at the national level for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

6. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and all other international organizations, within their respective mandates, to support as a priority the implementation of the Programme of Action, including programmes of financial and technical cooperation devoted to the least developed countries in support of their national development programmes, including their poverty reduction strategies;

7. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its annual assessment at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, and recognizes in this regard the critical importance of the participation of the least developed countries in the assessment process of the Programme of Action;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to facilitate the participation of government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual assessment by the Economic and Social Council of the Programme of Action within the context of the overall financial provisions established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1798(XVII) of 11 December 1962 and subsequent amendments;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures, within existing resources and with the full participation of the regional commissions and relevant United Nations bodies, to support the participation of the least developed countries in international meetings, as well as in their preparation and consultation processes;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of coordinating action within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action, and calls upon the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to fulfil its functions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001;

11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, an annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in a more analytical and results-oriented way by placing greater emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in its implementation.

Island developing countries

Implementation of the Programme of Action

Preparations for international review meeting

Commission on Sustainable Development. Pursuant to resolution 57/262 [YUN 2002, p. 848], by which the General Assembly decided to convene in 2004 an international meeting to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), adopted at the 1994 Global Conference on the subject [YUN 1994, p. 783], the Commission on Sustainable Development considered, at its eleventh session (27 January and 28 April-9 May) [E/2003/29], its role in the preparatory process for the conduct of that review. There was broad agreement that the Commission should act as the high-level policy forum for the preparatory process. The review should not renegotiate the Programme of Action but should assess the successes and failures of its implementation and focus on developing actions and modalities to further implementation and provide a strong foundation for the sustainable development of SIDS. There was general agreement also that effective regional, subregional and major group input into the preparatory process should be assured through regional preparatory meetings.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a draft resolution on the preparations for the international review meeting.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 48], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development [E/2003/29], adopted **resolution 2003/55** without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

Preparations for an international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 57/262 of 20 December 2002 to convene an international meeting in 2004 in Mauritius, including a high-level segment, for a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also the decision to convene regional and interregional preparatory meetings of small island developing States,

Recalling further the decision to invite the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh ses-

sion, to consider its role in the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting the preliminary discussion of the issues by the Commission at its eleventh session in its consideration of its role in the preparations for the international meeting,

1. *Decides* that the Commission on Sustainable Development, during its twelfth session, in 2004, shall convene a three-day preparatory meeting for an international meeting for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and shall finalize the preparations for the international meeting, including its agenda;

2. *Also decides* that the three-day preparatory meeting shall consider a synthesis report, to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of the recommendations contained in:

(a) National assessment reports of small island developing States, where available;

(b) Expert thematic workshop reports;

(c) Reports of the regional and interregional preparatory meetings referred to in paragraph 6 below on the implementation of the Programme of Action;

3. *Invites* the international donor and development community and international organizations to provide information, on or before 31 January 2004, on their activities in support of the Programme of Action, as well as on recommendations for further action in support of its full implementation, and requests that the information provided be considered by the Secretary-General in the preparation of the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 2 above;

4. *Welcomes* the work in progress in all small island developing States to continue and to enhance their preparations for the international meeting, and calls upon the international community, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies to support the efforts of small island developing States in their preparations of national assessment reports to be completed by July 2003, given that national reports are a critical component for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action in providing information on respective national circumstances;

5. *Emphasizes* that in the preparation of the reporting referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above, the provisions of paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 57/262 should be taken into account, and invites the Secretary-General to make full use of the Small Island Developing States Information Network in his efforts to disseminate the various reports;

6. *Welcomes*, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 57/262, the regional preparatory meetings for:

(a) Pacific small island developing States, to be held in Apia from 4 to 8 August 2003;

(b) Caribbean small island developing States, to be held in Port of Spain from 18 to 22 August 2003;

(c) Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas small island developing States, to be held in Praia from 1 to 5 September 2003;

as well as an interregional preparatory meeting, with ministerial participation, for all small island developing States, to be held in Nassau from 26 to 30 January 2004;

7. *Encourages* Governments and participants at the high-level segment of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to also address, within the thematic cluster of issues for that session, matters related to the sustainable development of small island developing States and the Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* the international community, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies to support regional initiatives and to collaborate closely, in partnership with the regional organizations and institutions, to expedite preparations for the review, noting the work already done by the regional organizations and institutions, bearing in mind the coordinating role assigned to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat by the General Assembly, and to the Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States Branch of the Department in its capacity as Chair of the inter-agency task force for the international meeting;

9. *Reiterates* the need for the full participation of small island developing States in the preparatory process leading up to, as well as during, the international meeting, and invites Governments and international and regional intergovernmental organizations to contribute to the voluntary fund called for in paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 57/262;

10. *Reiterates also* the need for the effective participation of associate members of the regional commissions, and calls for their participation to be facilitated through the voluntary fund referred to in paragraph 9 above;

11. *Invites* interested Governments and donor organizations to support the participation of major groups in the preparatory process and in the international meeting itself;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to work within existing resources and especially to utilize fully the savings from the budget that would result from not implementing the two intersessional meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development as programmed in 2003 and voluntary contributions, as necessary, for the preparatory process referred to above.

Also on 24 July, by **decision 2003/283**, the Council recommended to the Assembly that travel and subsistence allowances for participants from SIDS in the preparatory meetings and the international review meeting should be provided from the funds designated by donors for that purpose in the voluntary fund established by the Assembly in resolution 57/262 [YUN 2002, p. 848].

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/262 [YUN 2002, p. 848], the Secretary-General submitted an 18 July report on further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS [A/58/170]. He provided an overview of activities planned at the national, regional and international levels in anticipation of the international review meeting, to be hosted by Mauritius in 2004. The report, which included input from the Inter-Agency Task Force

established by the Secretary-General for the purpose of preparing the international meeting, also gave information on the schedule of regional preparatory meetings that would coordinate regional platforms based on the national assessment reports of small island developing States, which were expected to play a key role in the preparatory process.

Three regional preparatory meetings were held in 2003: for Pacific SIDS (Apia, Samoa, 4-8 August) [A/58/303]; for Caribbean SIDS (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6-10 October) [A/C.2/58/14]; and SIDS of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (Praia, Cape Verde, 1-5 September) [A/C.2/58/12]. Other regional-level preparations included the Expert Meeting on Capacity-Building for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in SIDS (Niue, 7-11 July) [A/58/675] and a workshop on the vulnerability of SIDS (Dominica, 29 September-3 October). Those regional preparatory and expert meetings would culminate in the convening of an interregional preparatory meeting with ministerial-level participation to harmonize the platform for all SIDS, to be held in Nassau, Bahamas, in January 2004. In addition, the SIDS Unit of the Secretariat was compiling best practices and success stories regarding field projects and programmes in SIDS aimed at implementing the Programme of Action at the international, regional and local levels. A publication and web-based databank were envisaged in time for the Mauritius meeting.

The report concluded that preparatory work for the international meeting was progressing steadily, but there was a need for high-level regional and global advocacy in support of the preparations.

The Secretary-General, by a November note [A/58/567 & Corr.1], submitted to the General Assembly the draft provisional rules of procedure of the 2004 International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/484/Add.4], adopted **resolution 58/213 A** without vote [agenda item 94 (d)].

Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small

Island Developing States, and recalling also its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-second special session, and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 and 55/202 of 20 December 2000, 56/198 of 21 December 2001 and 57/262 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling further the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), in particular the emphasis given to small island developing States in chapter VII of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the references to the specific needs of small island developing States contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling its decision to convene an international meeting in 2004, including a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

Welcoming the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the international meeting, and expressing its appreciation to the Governments of Samoa, Cape Verde and Trinidad and Tobago for hosting regional preparatory meetings,

Reaffirming the political importance of the forthcoming ten-year review of the progress achieved since the Global Conference, and stressing that the risk from the vulnerabilities of and challenges to small island developing States has increased and requires the strengthening of cooperation and more effective development assistance towards achieving the goals of sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Approves* the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;
3. *Decides* that the International Meeting shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences and with the rules of procedure of the International Meeting;
4. *Welcomes* the efforts made at the national, sub-regional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action, and takes note of the reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Pacific, the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas and the Caribbean regions of small island developing States;
5. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, the Declaration of Barbados and the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session so as to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

6. *Decides* that the International Meeting will be convened from 30 August to 3 September 2004 and will include a high-level segment to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the International Meeting;

7. *Also decides* to hold, if deemed necessary by an open-ended preparatory meeting, and if funded from voluntary resources, two days of informal consultations in Mauritius, on 28 and 29 August 2004, to facilitate the effective preparation of the International Meeting;

8. *Urges* that representation and participation at the International Meeting be at the highest possible level;

9. *Decides* that the International Meeting will seek a renewed political commitment by the international community and will focus on practical actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into consideration new and emerging issues, challenges and situations since the adoption of the Programme of Action;

10. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/55 of 24 July 2003, in which it decided, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene an interregional preparatory meeting for small island developing States in Nassau from 26 to 30 January 2004, expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Bahamas for hosting the meeting, and encourages participation in the meeting at the ministerial level;

11. *Also endorses* the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/55, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene during the twelfth session of the Commission a three-day preparatory meeting for the International Meeting, from 14 to 16 April 2004, for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to finalize the preparations for the International Meeting, including its agenda;

12. *Decides* that the preparatory meeting shall be open-ended and shall be held in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, applied to all Member States and other participants, as was the practice in the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, while maintaining the provisions of the Commission in relation to travel assistance, in accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council decision 2003/283 of 24 July 2003;

13. *Encourages* associate members of the regional commissions that are small island developing States to participate in the International Meeting, and decides that their participation shall be in accordance with rule 61 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

14. *Decides* that the participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the International Meeting shall be in accordance with

rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

15. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations whose work is relevant to the subject of the International Meeting, that are not currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council, may submit applications to participate as observers in the International Meeting, as well as its preparatory meeting, subject to the approval of the open-ended preparatory meeting;

16. *Takes note* of the appointment of a Secretary-General of the International Meeting;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, and taking into account the submissions he may receive from bilateral, regional and multilateral donor agencies as well as from major groups, including non-governmental organizations, to ensure the timely submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session of a synthesis report on the basis of the national, regional and interregional preparations and reports by small island developing States and other parties;

18. *Requests* that the necessary resources, from within existing resources, be provided to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to ensure that the goals and purposes of the International Meeting receive the widest possible dissemination within Member States, major groups, including non-governmental organizations, and national, regional and international media, including through the Small Island Developing States Information Network, with a view to encouraging contributions to and support for the International Meeting and its preparatory process;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States to participate fully and effectively in the International Meeting and its preparatory process, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2003/55 and decision 2003/283, and urges all Member States and organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

20. *Encourages* the full and effective participation of developing countries in the International Meeting, and invites donor countries and agencies to provide additional extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions to the trust fund, to facilitate their participation;

21. *Welcomes* the coordinating efforts undertaken in the United Nations system through the creation of an inter-agency task force to enable the United Nations system to improve coordination and enhance cooperation on matters pertaining to the preparatory process and to the International Meeting itself;

22. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through the Division for Sustainable Development and its Small Island Developing States Unit, to undertake activities in both the preparatory processes and the International Meeting to enhance coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system as well as with other relevant multilateral organizations to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of and follow-up to the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

23. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to fulfil its mandate and to advocate strongly, in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations as well as with major groups, media, academia and foundations, for the mobilization of international support and resources for the successful outcome of the International Meeting and for the follow-up to the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

24. *Welcomes* the generous contributions by donors to provide for staffing of the Small Island Developing States Unit, and calls upon the Secretary-General to explore practical options for strengthening the Unit, including by redeployment of resources, on a permanent basis during the biennium 2004-2005, pursuant to resolutions 56/198 and 57/262, with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action and the outcomes of the International Meeting;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: follow-up to the outcomes of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session the report of the International Meeting.

Landlocked developing countries

In 2003, the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28-29 August) adopted the Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action, a global framework outlining partnerships, objectives and priorities for addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries [A/CONF.202/3].

In December, the General Assembly, in **resolution 58/201** (see p. 877), endorsed the Almaty Programme of Action and called for its effective implementation.

Ministerial communiqué. On 2 October [A/C.2/58/3], the Lao People's Democratic Republic transmitted to the Secretary-General the ministerial communiqué adopted at the Fourth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries (New York, 30 September) and the communiqué issued by the ministers of landlocked developing countries attending the fifth session of the WTO Ministerial Conference (Cancún, Mexico, 13 September) (see p. 1535).

International Ministerial Conference

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 56/180 [YUN 2001, p. 777] and 57/242 [YUN 2002, p. 850], the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 28 and 29 August [A/CONF.202/3]. The Conference reviewed the current situation of transit transport systems in landlocked developing countries and the implementation of the 1995 Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community [YUN 1995, p. 876] and formulated policy measures and action-oriented programmes aimed at developing efficient transit transport systems. At the conclusion of the Conference, the ministers adopted the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries.

In conjunction with the Conference, three parallel events were organized by UNCTAD (on trade facilitation); by the World Bank (a high-level investment forum); and by the Economic Commission for Europe (regional initiatives on trade and transport facilitation).

Almaty Programme of Action and Declaration

The Almaty Programme of Action stated that landlocked developing countries, as a group, were among the poorest of developing countries. Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets contributed to their relative poverty, substantially inflating transportation costs and lowering their effective participation in international trade. High transit transport costs constrained export development and caused the price of imports to soar. The transit neighbours of landlocked developing countries were themselves mostly developing countries, often of broadly similar economic structure, beset by similar scarcities of resources, and burdened by the financial, infrastructural and social impacts deriving from transit transport. The transit developing countries were in need of improved technical and administrative arrangements in their transport and customs and administrative systems to which their landlocked neighbours were expected to link.

The objective of the Programme of Action was to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and establish a new global framework for action for developing efficient transit

transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, taking into account the interests of both groups. It aimed to: secure access to and from the sea by all means of transport according to applicable rules of international law; reduce costs and improve services so as to increase the competitiveness of their exports; reduce the delivered costs of imports; address problems of delays and uncertainties in trade routes; develop adequate national networks; reduce loss, damage and deterioration en route; open the way for export expansion; and improve safety of road transport and security of people along the corridors.

The Programme of Action outlined five priorities: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance, including rail transport, road transport, ports, inland waterways, pipelines, air transport and communications; international trade and trade facilitation; international support measures; and implementation and review. The Conference recommended specific actions under each priority. In terms of international support measures, the Conference recommended that the international community, including financial and development institutions and donor countries, should assist landlocked and transit developing countries to deal effectively with their transit problems and requirements by, among other actions, facilitating an external supporting environment for the timely realization of the objectives of the Programme of Action, providing technical support through partnerships and encouraging increased foreign direct investment. Donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions should provide landlocked and transit developing countries with financial and technical assistance in the form of grants and/or concessional loans for the needs identified in the Programme of Action. Special attention should be given to institutional capacity-building to promote effective government policy-making and practices addressing transport and transit needs. The Programme of Action identified areas for priority financing, including investments to complete "missing links" in the transit transport chain to extend railways and roads to landlocked developing countries; maintenance of existing physical transit transport infrastructure; development and maintenance of cost-effective routes; development of dry port projects; projects to improve existing or establish adjacent border points; and rehabilitation and reconstruction of transport infrastructure, especially in countries or regions emerging from war and internal conflict and natural disasters.

The Programme of Action stated that implementation required individual and concerted efforts by the landlocked and transit developing countries, their development partners, the UN system, relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and regional development banks, WTO, and the World Customs Organization and regional and other organizations. International and regional organizations should give priority to requests for technical assistance to supplement national and regional efforts to promote efficient use of existing transit facilities. The private sector should be actively involved in implementing the Programme of Action, and South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors should be promoted, as should cooperation among subregional and regional organizations. The UN regional commissions should expand their programmes consistent with the Programme of Action and specific subregional meetings should be organized to consider how to implement the Programme of Action effectively.

The UN Secretary-General should report on the implementation of the Programme of Action to the Assembly, which would decide on periodicity. The Assembly was invited to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action at a time to be decided. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should coordinate the preparatory review process, and UNCTAD, the World Bank and the regional commissions were invited to provide substantive assistance for that process. The Office of the High Representative was asked to enhance cooperation and coordination with UN system organizations, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries, and to carry out advocacy work to mobilize international awareness and focus attention on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

In the Almaty Declaration, participating Governments recognized that high trade transaction costs were a major reason for the marginalization of landlocked developing countries from the global trading system and committed themselves to minimizing that marginalization and enhancing the beneficial integration of landlocked developing countries into the global economy through the establishment of efficient transit transport systems in both landlocked and transit developing countries, and through genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional

and global levels. They reaffirmed the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through transit countries. They also reaffirmed that transit countries had the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringed upon their legitimate interests. They emphasized the importance of effective implementation of and regular follow-up to the Almaty Programme of Action and committed themselves to that end, and requested the High Representative to ensure that the Conference was effectively followed up. The Conference also adopted a resolution thanking the people and Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the Conference.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/242 [YUN 2002, p. 850], the Secretary-General submitted a 23 September report [A/58/388] on the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference and some aspects of the preparatory process that preceded it. He concluded that the Conference successfully galvanized international solidarity and partnerships to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries as called for in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2002, p. 49]. Implementation of the specific actions in the five priority areas agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action would facilitate establishing the efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries that were inevitably required for landlocked developing countries to be effectively integrated into the international trading system.

Preparatory meetings

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/242 [YUN 2002, p. 850], the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the International Ministerial Conference held two sessions during 2003. The sixth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representative Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions (New York, 23-27 June) served as the first preparatory session [A/CONF.202/PC/5]. It included a high-level panel discussion and considered a draft outcome document [A/CONF.202/PC/L.1 & Corr.1]. The session also had before it a May report of the Secretary-General [A/CONF.202/PC/2] on the state of preparations for the Conference, including the outcomes of regional and subregional preparations. Annexed to the report were the Asunción Programme of Action, adopted in Asunción, Paraguay (12-13 March); the Asian Action Plan on Transit Transport Cooperation, adopted at the fifty-ninth session of

the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 24-25 April); and the African Action Plan, adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (7 May). The report also highlighted other aspects of the preparatory process for the Ministerial Conference, including support from the UN system, consultations with the host Government, mobilization of resources, and advocacy and promotion of the Conference. In addition, the structure and format of the Conference were reviewed. The report concluded that the Conference would need to agree on action-oriented measures that took into account a broad range of factors, such as unfettered access to the sea by all means of transport, inadequate infrastructure, imbalance of trade, inefficient transport organization, poor utilization of assets, reform of transit transport policies and weak managerial, procedural, regulatory and institutional systems, and international support measures.

A Meeting of Senior Officials (Almaty, 25-27 August) served as the second preparatory session [A/CONF.202/PC.2/1], which finalized the draft outcome document, the Almaty Programme of Action, and recommended it to the Conference for adoption.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/58/481/Add.3], adopted **resolution 58/201** without vote [agenda items 91 (c) & (f)].

Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/180 of 21 December 2001, in which it requested the Secretary-General to convene in 2003 the international ministerial meeting now known as the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, as well as its resolution 57/242 of 20 December 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation;

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the International Ministerial Conference in Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003;

3. *Endorses* the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Almaty Declaration, adopted by the International Ministerial Conference;

4. *Calls* for full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation";

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

On 23 December, the Assembly took note of a report by the UNCTAD Secretary-General [A/58/209] on the transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours (**decision 58/547**) (see p. 1010).