

Chapter XI

Children, youth and ageing persons

In 2003, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its efforts to ensure that every child received the best start in life; was fully immunized and protected from disease and disability; completed a quality primary education; and was protected from harm, abuse and violence in times of war and peace and in emergencies. All young people were to be given reliable information on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Progress towards the implementation of "A world fit for children", the final document of the General Assembly's twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children, continued in the four major goal areas of the document's Plan of Action—promoting healthy lives, providing quality education, protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence, and combating HIV/AIDS.

UNICEF continued work on its five organizational priorities for 2002-2005: girls education; fighting HIV/AIDS; integrated early childhood development; immunization "plus"; and improved protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination.

The World Youth Report 2003, a comprehensive analysis of the global situation of youth, reviewed the 10 priority areas of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and identified five new concerns that had emerged since the Programme's adoption. The second meeting of the High-level Panel of the Youth Employment Network considered a draft action programme, which recommended the next five steps to be taken by the Network.

In 2003, the United Nations continued its efforts to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted in 2002 by the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The Secretariat proposed a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Plan of Action, and a road map for its implementation was introduced by the Secretary-General in July.

August [A/58/333], described follow-up to the Assembly's twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children [YUN 2002, p. 1168], including progress in realizing the commitments of the session's final document, "A world fit for children", consisting of a Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted in resolution S-27/2 [ibid., p. 1169]. The report covered global and regional actions taken by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, and the UN system's response. It also highlighted action taken in the four major goal areas of the Plan of Action—promoting healthy lives, providing quality education, protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence, and combating HIV/AIDS.

Although Governments, foundations, NGOs, civil society organizations, the private sector and UN agencies had worked together to ensure that the Declaration and Plan of Action were enthusiastically and diligently pursued, follow-up actions had not received high priority in all countries or regions, and more systematic efforts and exchanges of experience were called for to fulfil the pledges made at the special session. Nearly 140 countries had taken concrete actions to translate their commitments into national action plans and/or to integrate them into specific plans and policies. Information received by UNICEF, as at the end of July, indicated that 29 countries had completed or drafted new national plans of action for children; 64 countries were in the process of or would start to develop such plans. In addition, 10 countries had updated their existing national plans and 46 had integrated the agenda of "A world fit for children" into existing national plans and policies, poverty reduction strategies and sectoral policies. The report provided regional information on progress in sub-Saharan Africa; Asia; Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and North Africa; and industrialized countries.

Follow-up by the UN system focused on programmatic support and inter-agency collaboration, advocacy, communication strategies, resource mobilization, building partnerships and alliances, and the quantitative and qualitative review of progress made by Member States. Efforts were under way to ensure that the goals, targets and strategies

Children

Follow-up to the 2002 General Assembly special session on children

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/190 [YUN 2002, p. 749], the Secretary-General, in

of “A world fit for children” were adequately reflected in the common country assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes. The UN system was also working with the World Bank and bilateral agencies to include the agenda of “A world fit for children” and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], in poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches.

The Secretary-General concluded that the progress made represented a good start, but tremendous challenges remained. He urged countries that were developing or would develop national action plans to complete them by year’s end. Countries that had chosen to use other mechanisms should ensure that those plans and frameworks reflected the key goals and targets of “A world fit for children” to enable periodic monitoring and future review of progress. It was imperative that a broad consensus be built, and that civil society organizations, NGOs, families, children and young people be engaged in the development and monitoring of national and subnational plans of action for children. All countries should follow up the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development [YUN 2002, p. 953], to increase financing for development. They should also consider establishing or strengthening national institutions to promote and protect children’s rights; establish or strengthen national and subnational monitoring systems to assess progress towards key, child-related goals and increase national capacities to collect, analyse and disaggregate data by sex, age and other factors; and conduct periodic reviews of progress at national and subnational levels to address obstacles and accelerate progress. Countries might wish to develop closer linkages between the mechanisms established for monitoring and reporting on the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by General Assembly resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p. 560] (see p. 780). The Secretary-General proposed providing to the Assembly an in-depth progress report on implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action every five years—in 2006, 2011 and 2016—based on national, regional and global reviews. All countries were encouraged to conduct in-depth reviews of progress in or before 2005 for the first review process, which would lead to the 2006 report.

A final report on the use of funds for UNICEF support to the special session [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.12] indicated that UNICEF received 40 contributions from 22 Member States, six national committees and one foundation, totalling \$7,417,439;

total expenditures as at 30 June amounted to \$7,415,324, leaving a balance of \$2,115.

On 22 December, the General Assembly, in **resolution 58/157** (see p. 781), requested the Secretary-General to prepare an updated report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in “A world fit for children” and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth (2004) session.

On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the item on follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-eighth (2004) session (**decision 58/565**).

United Nations Children’s Fund

UNICEF was committed to the realization of the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51], and the goals set out by the Assembly’s twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children [YUN 2002, p. 1168] in its outcome document, “A world fit for children” [ibid., p. 1169]. Its mission was to defend children’s rights, help meet their basic needs, ensure their survival and increase their opportunities to flourish; rally political will to invest in children’s well-being; respond to emergencies and strengthen the ability of children and their families to handle crises, including armed conflict, natural disasters and HIV/AIDS; assist countries in transition to protect young people’s rights and provide vital services to children and their families; advance equal rights for boys and girls and encourage their full participation in the development of their communities; and work towards the human development goals adopted by the world community and the peace, justice and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

UNICEF’s flagship publication, *The State of the World’s Children 2003*, sought to draw public attention to the importance of young people’s active participation in family, school, community and national life; encourage States, civil society organizations and the private sector to promote children’s involvement in decisions that affected their lives; present examples of how the lives of children, families and communities had been changed when children had the opportunity to contribute on matters that affected them; and spark action that included children and young people in meeting the goals of “A world fit for children” and the MDGs.

In 2003, UNICEF cooperated with 158 countries, areas and territories: 46 in sub-Saharan Africa; 35 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 35 in Asia; 20 in the Middle East and North Africa; and 22 in Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States.

Total expenditures, including write-offs, amounted to \$1,480 million (compared with \$1,273 million in 2002), of which 93 per cent (\$1,382 million) was for country programmes of cooperation; 6 per cent (\$87 million) for management and administration of the organization; and about 1 per cent (\$11 million) for write-offs and other charges. Programme expenditures by priorities were: \$442 million for early childhood development; \$258 million for immunization "plus"; \$233 million for girls' education; \$123 million for the improved protection of children; and \$110 million for HIV/AIDS. UNICEF operations in 2003 were described in the *UNICEF Annual Report* covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2003, the annual report of its Executive Director [E/ICEF/2004/4] and a report of the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2004/9] on results achieved for children during the year in support of UNICEF's 2002-2005 medium-term strategic plan, which was approved by the Executive Board in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1094].

The UNICEF Executive Board held its first regular session of 2003 (13-17 January), the annual session (2-6 and 9 June), the second regular session (15-19 September) and an extraordinary budgetary session (1-2 December), all in New York [E/2003/34/Rev.1]. The Board adopted 18 decisions during those sessions.

By **decision 2003/225** of 11 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Board's report on its first regular session; the Board's decisions at its annual session [E/2003/L.8]; and the annual report of the Executive Director covering the year 2002 [E/2003/48], which was transmitted in accordance with a January decision of the Board [E/2003/34/Rev.1 (dec. 2003/1)].

On 19 September [dec. 2003/14], the Executive Board, having considered a July report on its working methods [E/ICEF/2003/12], requested the Bureau to enter into dialogue with representatives of other UN funds, programmes and organizations to explore approaches to improving working methods and to report back to the Board in 2004. On the same date, the Board adopted the programme of work and dates for its 2004 sessions [dec. 2003/15].

Programme policies

In January, the Executive Board considered a progress report on UNICEF engagement in sector-wide approaches to development (SWAPs) [E/ICEF/2003/6]. The report discussed SWAPs in the context of existing and emerging development financing initiatives; UNICEF's contribution to SWAPs; benefits and constraints of UNICEF participation; and UNICEF's efforts to develop staff capacities to participate meaningfully in policy dialogue on SWAPs

and in their implementation. UNICEF was participating in evolving SWAPs and sectoral development programmes in 20 countries, mostly in the health and education sectors.

Medium-term financial plan (2003-2006)

While the medium-term financial plan was contained in each medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) (the 2002-2005 MTSP was approved by the Executive Board in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1094]), it was updated annually. The Board considered a July report [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.7], which presented the financial plan for 2003-2006 and projected total planned programme expenditures with an upward trend to reflect increased income. The Executive Director recommended that the Board approve the medium-term financial plan as a framework of projections for 2003-2006, including preparation of up to \$151 million in programme expenditures from regular resources to be submitted to the Board in 2004. The amount was subject to the availability of resources and to the condition that estimates of income and expenditure continued to be valid. The Executive Director also recommended that the Board authorize the establishment of a funded reserve to count towards the contingent liability of after-service health insurance, with \$30 million allocated to the reserve in 2003 and \$10 million per year for the period 2004-2006.

On 17 September [dec. 2003/11], the Board approved the 2003-2006 medium-term plan and the establishment of a funded reserve for after-service health insurance, as recommended by the Executive Director.

Evaluation system

A November report of the Executive Director [E/2004/3-E/ICEF/2004/4] stated that a senior-level Evaluation Committee was created in 2003 to advise her on evaluation matters and to provide oversight of the evaluation function. Its mandate was to review evaluation reports produced by UNICEF that had relevance at the global governance level and to endorse the recommendations made in the reports. The Committee examined the work of UNICEF's Evaluation Office and cleared the release of reports to the public domain; it also adopted rules and procedures that clarified the accountabilities for the evaluation function at all levels of UNICEF and its own *modus operandi*. Training workshops were held as part of ongoing evaluations, so as to disseminate results-based approaches to programming and evaluation. Integrated monitoring and evaluation planning within the country programme management plan were promoted through workshops and inclusion in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)

harmonized and simplified country programme cycle. In compliance with a multi-year evaluation plan in support of the MTSP, evaluation work was conducted in areas related to HIV/AIDS and education as prevention against child labour. An assessment of the *ChildInfo* web site, which provided access to UNICEF's key statistical database, was completed. The Evaluation Office assessed programmes of cooperation for Mauritius, the Pacific island countries and Peru, in an effort to develop and test a broad-based methodology for country programme evaluation. To strengthen evaluation capacity-building within UNICEF, a meta-evaluation of the quality of evaluations performed by country offices, together with national authorities, identified areas requiring improvement.

Emergency assistance

In 2003, UNICEF updated its Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCCs). Efforts focused on the comparative advantage of UNICEF in the light of enhanced coordination by humanitarian actors. The purpose of the revised CCCs was to enhance the timeliness, effectiveness and predictability of the UNICEF humanitarian response, and to reinforce the link between the UNICEF response to crises and its mandate to promote and help ensure the rights of children and women.

About one third of the countries in which UNICEF operated in 2003 were responding to crises and emergencies, and 25-30 per cent of UNICEF funding was dedicated emergency funding. UNICEF continued to participate actively in the United Nations inter-agency consolidated appeals process (see p. 922).

In 2003, humanitarian support extended by donors included secondment of emergency response personnel, in-kind donations and other forms of assistance to enable improved response to children's needs in crisis situations. Emergency funding reached \$401.4 million. Of that amount, UNICEF received \$345.2 million (86 per cent) from government and intergovernmental donors and \$52.1 million (13 per cent) from national committees. During the year, UNICEF humanitarian programmes received support from 38 Governments, 29 national committees and 5 other donors.

UNICEF programmes by region

In 2003, UNICEF regional programme expenditures totalled \$1,208 million, of which \$493 million (41 per cent) went to programmes in sub-Saharan Africa; \$388 million (32 per cent) to programmes in Asia; \$160 million (13 per cent) to programmes in the Middle East and North Af-

rica; \$69 million (6 per cent) to programmes in the Americas and the Caribbean; and \$53 million (4 per cent) to programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States. Another \$45 million (4 per cent) went to interregional programmes. Programme support costs amounted to an additional \$155 million.

Programme expenditures continued to be concentrated in countries with low income and high or very high under-five mortality rates. The 63 low-income countries—those with a per capita gross national income of \$745 and less—had a total child population of 1 billion or about 55 per cent of all children worldwide; they received 65 per cent of the total programme expenditure, 6 per cent less than in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1185].

Field visits

In Mozambique (10-19 March), Executive Board members noted that UNICEF activities had achieved a good balance between efforts to promote survival and health care for children and interventions aimed at promoting long-term human development. In supporting community-based action aimed at engaging people in the development process, the country team had achieved impressive outcomes while ensuring that the methodology used supported long-term project sustainability. UNICEF had taken innovative approaches in implementing its priorities, including in combating HIV/AIDS through active support for peer education, and in its vision of extending services to the aged who cared for HIV/AIDS orphans and other orphaned children; there was a need to encourage and support community-based monitoring of the impact of those approaches, with a view to ensuring that they were maintained and strengthened. UNICEF's involvement of community volunteers working in the supplementary feeding programme in the detection of severe malnutrition increased the community's ability to monitor the nutritional status of children for referral to health centres. A joint segment of the field visit by members of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) took place during the same period; it was recommended that such joint visits be continued.

Executive Board members who visited Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (10-19 March) concluded that both countries had successfully established political stability and were seriously committed to and involved in implementing the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (see p. 780). The country programmes in both countries were

well-focused and characterized by a decentralized approach; they forged strong partnerships with institutions, the community, NGOs and children, while remaining action-oriented, cost-effective and catalytic. UNICEF's role as catalyst was especially evident in the pursuit of child-related issues within the framework of the Convention. The programme reviews, particularly the midterm reviews in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, had resulted in a better-focused set of key priorities and targets. The current thrust of building the capacity of local NGOs and community participation should be reinforced. In the light of funding constraints, which could seriously hamper programme delivery and progress, it would be desirable for UNICEF to reinforce its fund-raising strategies for the region through the Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan Forum, as well as horizontal cooperation.

At the initiative of the Executive Board President, Bureau members visited Bolivia (7-10 April), marking the first-ever field visit explicitly for Bureau members. The team found that the empowerment of communities, particularly of women, was evident in most programmes visited, including in the management of the microcredit scheme and of water and sanitation systems. Literacy programmes had proved very effective in empowering community members and as an entry point for other initiatives. The sustainability of most projects appeared to be linked to low cost, the use of simple technologies and the commitment of local authorities and community members. In addition to direct interventions in basic services, the country programme was also successful in advocacy, policy dialogue and capacity-building. UNICEF was able to influence national policies in bilingual education and in basic health insurance schemes for women and for children under the age of five. The Bureau members were convinced of the importance of field visits in future and recommended that the practice continue annually.

UNICEF programmes by sector

In 2003, UNICEF programme expenditures were linked to the five organizational priorities established in 2001 under the 2002-2005 MTSP [YUN 2001, p. 1093], with the largest share of the \$1,208 million total expenditure made in the area of early childhood development (ECD) (\$440 million or 36 per cent). Significant shares also went to immunization "plus" (\$260 million or 22 per cent); girls' education (\$233 million or 19 per cent); child protection (\$123 million or 10 per cent); and HIV/AIDS (\$111 million or 9 per cent). Expenditures in other areas amounted to \$41 mil-

lion or 3 per cent of the total. Programme support costs amounted to an additional \$155 million.

The Executive Director allocated \$24.9 million in 2003 to country programmes from the global set-aside of 7 per cent of regular resources. The funds were allocated in support of strategic initiatives, in line with the Executive Board decision establishing the set-aside [YUN 1997, p. 1220]. The largest portion of the set-aside—41 per cent—was used to combat HIV/AIDS and its effects, while 16 per cent supported girls' education initiatives and 12 per cent went to child protection. The remaining funds were allocated to support arsenic mitigation, ECD, polio eradication, and health initiatives in Haiti. Forty-three per cent of the set-aside funds were allocated to countries in Asia and 30 per cent to sub-Saharan Africa.

Early childhood development

In 2003, UNICEF supported various components of the early childhood approach that addressed improving the situation of children living in poverty, their families and communities. Some 57 countries had national coordinating mechanisms for early childhood development, compared to 41 in 2002. The number of programme countries with official policies on early childhood increased from 17 in 2002 to 30 in 2003. Together with other UN agencies, UNICEF worked in Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Mongolia, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia and Montenegro to promote an emphasis on young children in new or revised poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs). In Uganda, health and education SWAPs were used to help ensure a policy focus on young children.

UNICEF and the World Bank teamed up to support the use in several countries of the "marginal budgeting to bottlenecks" tool, which helped to identify implementation constraints in the health-care system and the marginal costs of overcoming them. The tool had been used in preparing medium-term expenditure frameworks in Mali and Mauritania, where it helped to increase allocations to child and maternal survival, and for policy dialogue in Madagascar and the state of Madhya Pradesh in India.

Regarding basic delivery service in key areas of maternal and child health, water and sanitation, prevention of iodine deficiency disorders, malaria prevention, the control of diarrhoeal diseases, and pre-school and early learning programmes, some countries in West Africa used "zones of convergence" to deliver a coordinated package of services and commodities to young children. The convergence approach to basic service provision was also used in places with large populations of displaced people or refugees, such as Guinea and

Liberia. In Angola, “child-friendly” spaces were used to provide a range of assistance to war-affected children and adolescents, including nutrition rehabilitation, birth registration, family tracing and psychosocial recovery. The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) strategy, a major effort for the convergent delivery of services for child survival, growth and development, focused on malnutrition, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases and malaria—conditions that combined to cause nearly 4 million child deaths every year. In 77 countries, UNICEF supported a “community focus” on IMCI, including strengthening the local health system, the case management skills of health workers, and family health practices in the management of diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria. The Accelerated Child Survival and Development (ACSD) programme, a complementary initiative piloted by UNICEF and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), supported cost-effective interventions in 11 countries in West and Central Africa, including immunization and case management of the main childhood killer diseases, vitamin A supplementation and antenatal care. It was estimated that some 130 million people in 86 developing countries were covered by IMCI and ACSD in 2003.

A range of sectoral interventions continued to be supported by UNICEF, such as the improvement of emergency obstetric care in 3,400 health facilities in 80 countries during 2003. The use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) to combat malaria expanded in 38 countries. At least 12 African countries were expected to reach 60 per cent usage rates among young children and women in 2005. Procurement of nets and insecticide, a priority of the UNICEF supply operation (see p. 1214), had more than doubled, from 2.3 million nets in 2001 to nearly 4.8 million—worth \$13.5 million—in 2003, as part of UNICEF’s contribution to the Roll Back Malaria partnership (see p. 1251). Insecticide worth some \$3.7 million was also supplied. UNICEF supported the training of health workers in diarrhoea management and strengthening of systems for the distribution of essential commodities such as oral rehydration salts (ORS); it supplied 43.2 million sachets of ORS in 33 countries in 2003, a 38 per cent increase compared to 2002.

In 2003, UNICEF supported programmes for clean water, sanitation and hygiene in 91 countries, assisting in policy reform, capacity-building and improved service delivery for poor and marginalized populations, with a major focus on rural water supply and sanitation in countries with low coverage rates. In Iraq, UNICEF supported the repair of damaged infrastructure

and supplied 825,000 people with water on a daily basis. It also led the UN coordinating unit for Iraq, based in Amman, Jordan. Emergency support was provided in response to an earthquake in Iran and to a major typhoid outbreak in Tajikistan.

During the year, participatory approaches were applied to nutrition, HIV/AIDS and malaria control, and were implemented successfully in drought- and AIDS-affected countries in Southern Africa, especially Mozambique and Zambia. Responding to the potential danger of arsenic poisoning in several countries in Asia, affecting an estimated 50 million people, Governments, with the support of UNICEF and other agencies, initiated arsenic mitigation programmes to raise awareness about the danger, identify contaminated wells and establish alternative water systems. UNICEF was involved in testing household filter technologies in Bangladesh, India and Viet Nam, and it continued to focus on finding alternative arsenic-free water sources.

During 2003, UNICEF supported birth registration campaigns in 40 least developed countries (LDCs) and 25 countries facing emergency situations, indicating that registration had become an important part of crisis response. The number of countries that had developed key parental care practices, based on UNICEF/World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations, for promoting among families and communities the need to secure a child’s best start in life, increased to 83, compared with 67 in 2002; the total included some 60 per cent of LDCs and nearly two thirds of countries with current humanitarian appeals. About 60 countries also undertook baseline surveys during 2002-2003 to improve the understanding of existing family-care practices. Ten countries suffering the burden of HIV/AIDS revitalized efforts to support infant feeding and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, and the introduction of the UNICEF/WHO Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding, endorsed by UNICEF’s Executive Board in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1184], refocused efforts on support to women and families. The number of countries making efforts to strengthen the role of fathers in child care increased from 10 in 2002 to 28 in 2003. UNICEF continued its support for child-care centres in about two thirds of programme countries, and for home-based care in about half. In 38 countries, UNICEF also supported early learning initiatives that incorporated specific measures to prepare girls for school.

Immunization “plus”

At current levels of immunization coverage, it was estimated that the lives of 2.5 million chil-

dren were saved each year worldwide, but there were about 2.2 million preventable deaths. In 2003, UNICEF procured some 2.5 billion doses of vaccines to support immunization programmes and campaigns, including nearly 1.9 billion doses of oral polio vaccine. UNICEF continued to work for global polio eradication in partnership with Governments and international organizations, including the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Rotary International and WHO. Following a rise in the number of confirmed cases of wild polio virus to 1,918 in 2002 from 483 in 2001, renewed progress was seen in 2003 towards the eradication goal, with some 733 cases confirmed. By the end of the year, polio transmission had become more localized and confined to a few states or provinces of Afghanistan, Egypt, India, the Niger, Nigeria and Pakistan. UNICEF assisted in the vaccination of 4 million children against polio before the conflict in Iraq (see p. 333), and its provision of 25 million doses of vaccine and cold-chain equipment helped to re-establish the routine immunization system soon after.

The MTSP target of reducing measles mortality by one half was likely to be reached and even surpassed. By 2002, the death toll from measles had been reduced to 611,000—an estimated 30 per cent decrease from 869,000 in 1990. Ninety-six per cent of those deaths occurred in 45 priority countries, mainly in Africa and Asia, where UNICEF and its partners were focusing their efforts. Of the 45 countries, 10 completed “catch-up” vaccination campaigns in 2003 and another eight mounted campaigns as part of multi-year efforts to reach all children. UNICEF supplied about 160 million doses of measles vaccines compared to 145 million in 2002. UNICEF, the United States CDC and WHO supported the planning and management of the campaigns and the exclusive use of auto-disable (AD) syringes. However, funding shortfalls and logistical constraints, injection safety and waste management still needed to be addressed to achieve and sustain national measles reduction targets. The Measles Initiative, whose members included the American Red Cross, the United States CDC, CIDA, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Foundation, UNICEF and WHO, continued to support efforts towards the measles mortality reduction targets.

Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) remained a public health problem in 52 countries. With widespread funding shortages, tetanus campaigns in 2003 aimed to cover 5.5 million women in high-risk areas that had poor infrastructure—a substantial decrease from 2002. Despite that

setback, UNICEF supported Governments in formulating and implementing MNT activities in 37 of the priority countries, compared with 26 in 2002. In Afghanistan, a three-year elimination plan was developed and almost 760,000 women received three doses of tetanus toxoid vaccine.

Some 60 countries—half of those reporting—used AD syringes for all routine immunization activities during 2003, up from 45 in 2002. UNICEF supplied \$31 million worth of AD syringes, an increase from \$18 million the year before, contributing to limiting the spread of infections such as hepatitis B and HIV, and to strengthening awareness of immunization safety. UNICEF collaborated with the United States CDC, WHO and other partners in support of countries in the context of the Safe Injection Global Network.

UNICEF supplied nearly 511 million high-dose vitamin A supplement capsules to 82 countries through a donation in kind from the Micronutrient Initiative, a not-for-profit organization specializing in addressing micronutrient malnutrition. The UNICEF Vaccine Independence Initiative continued to contribute to national self-sufficiency procurement, including in the Pacific and Central Asian subregions. In 69 of the 130 programme countries for which information was available, routine vaccine spending was fully met by Governments. However, some 25 countries, predominantly in Africa, remained completely dependent on external support for their vaccine needs in 2003.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF co-sponsored the first vaccination week, which brought immunization to indigenous populations and border areas, and continued to promote expanded coverage of routine services to the poorest families through its participation in health SWaps and PRSPs. The joint UNICEF/WHO Reach Every District immunization initiative was introduced in nine countries in 2003.

More than 16 million doses of measles vaccine had been delivered in Afghanistan since 2001, preventing an estimated 30,000 deaths. In Angola, a post-conflict country, over 7 million children of up to 14 years of age received measles vaccine and nearly 3 million received vitamin A supplements during two months in 2003. In Peru, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF initiated a hepatitis B immunization campaign, in response to an outbreak that threatened the survival of two ethnic groups in the Amazon region.

Girls' education

The number of countries with girls' net enrolment ratios below 85 per cent was estimated at 65 in 2003, about the same as in 2002. UNICEF had become a more responsive and strategic partner

for meeting the MDG on education [YUN 2000, p. 52] and the goal to provide quality education for all by 2015, with particular emphasis on girls' schooling, to which Governments committed themselves at the 2000 World Education Forum [ibid., p. 1081]. In 2003, the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative [ibid.] was evaluated and revitalized, and was focusing on joint action by UN partners at the country level. Efforts were intensified and some advances were made by countries with low or stagnating levels of school enrolment and persistent gender disparities, including Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Pakistan and Yemen. UNICEF played a leading role in the formulation of national education plans and their review against the indicative framework of the Fast-Track Initiative, a partnership of developing countries and donors created to help low-income countries achieve the MDG on education. It also increased its emphasis on advocacy for sustained investments in basic education, including through SWaps and PRSPs.

Enrolment gains reported in UNICEF-assisted zones were higher than the national averages in 53 countries in 2003, compared to 38 in 2002, but it was not clear that such gains were occurring at a rate that would make possible the achievement of the MDG goal on education with regard to gender disparity, particularly in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. In all, UNICEF spent some \$31 million on educational supplies in 2003, a significant increase over earlier years. UNICEF-assisted community approaches to schooling were taken up by Governments and other partners and expanded in Egypt, Malawi, Sierra Leone and elsewhere.

The number of countries reporting that their national Education For All (EFA) plans included explicit measures for reducing the number of out-of-school girls increased from 66 in 2002 to 71 in 2003, and included 40 of the 65 countries that had an estimated net enrolment rate of less than 85 per cent, and 20 of the 25 priority countries for acceleration. The number of countries where a gender review of the education sector had been undertaken within the previous three years increased to 56 in 2003 from 37 in 2002, although only 28 of the countries with low girls' net enrolment had undertaken such a study.

Although UNICEF continued to support more specific interventions to promote quality learning, especially in curriculum development and teacher training, it needed to develop clearer strategies for such support, in order to avoid piecemeal approaches. Policies were needed to address the educational needs of orphans and adolescent girls, especially in countries with high HIV/AIDS prevalence.

UNICEF support for school environments with a clean water supply and sanitation expanded to 73 countries in 2003 from 50 in 2002, and was reported to be effective in promoting the enrolment and retention of girls. Practical hygiene education formed part of the interventions, either as a part of life-skills education or through the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation approach.

Protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination

In 2003, 80 UNICEF offices reported Government-issued public statements on trafficking in children, compared with 64 in 2002, and 84 public statements on sexual exploitation, up from 14 in 2002. UNICEF stepped up efforts to emphasize, with national and UN partners, the close linkages between child protection and the MDGs and the relevant provisions of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49].

UNICEF documented 1,037 cases of gross violations of child rights in Sierra Leone. It supported databases on abducted children in Uganda and child soldiers in Sri Lanka. In Liberia, it assisted in the establishment of a child protection group of more than 40 NGOs, and a task force that had reunited over 100 children with their families. The number of UNICEF offices undertaking general advocacy on behalf of children in armed conflict increased from 21 in 2002 to 29 in 2003; on the demobilization of child soldiers, from 15 to 18; and on internally displaced children, from 12 to 15. At the global level, UNICEF worked with partners to produce the Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children. It also continued close collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (see p. 789), including the finalization and piloting of a training package for peace-keeping personnel.

A major consultation (New York, November), convened by UNICEF with NGO and UN partners, identified potential indicators for children in formal care, juvenile justice, female genital mutilation and child marriage. One hundred and nine UNICEF offices reported that a child protection analysis was either in place or under development, up from 91 in 2002. In 2003, only 23 UNICEF offices indicated that national standards adequately protected children deprived of their liberty or in formal care. UNICEF worked with Armenia to shift funding from institutional care to support for vulnerable families, and supported the development of foster care systems. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it worked with partners

to ensure the inclusion of provisions in the PRSP aimed at reducing institutionalization. The promotion of inclusive education was the major emphasis of UNICEF work to support children with disabilities during the MTSP period.

By the end of 2003, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) [YUN 1999, p. 1388] had been ratified by 147 countries. UNICEF worked with ILO in over 60 countries to combat the worst forms of child labour. Joint activities in 2003 included a programme combining education for working children with financial credit for their families in Paraguay, a child labour survey in Jamaica and a time-bound plan of action in Indonesia. UNICEF developed Guidelines for Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, which were adopted by the Stability Pact, a security mechanism for South-Eastern Europe adopted in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 398]. Limited progress was made regarding child labour issues in national statistical systems in 2003.

Regarding child soldiers, UNICEF worked with partners, including the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the World Bank and NGOs, in Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where 814 and 846 children were demobilized, respectively. Parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka agreed, with UNICEF facilitation, on a plan that established a formal release and reintegration system for child soldiers.

In 2003, 78 UNICEF offices reported that a review of legal standards to protect children from violence had been undertaken either by the Government or others within the last three years, up by 17 from 2002, while three quarters of country offices continued to promote awareness-raising on violence against children. Over 4,000 humanitarian relief workers were trained in Africa on a code of conduct applicable to international and national staff for the protection of women and children from sexual violence in humanitarian crises. In the DRC, Guinea and Sierra Leone, UNICEF developed programmes to respond to gender-based violence, which included components on HIV transmission.

UNICEF expanded its activities relating to landmines to 31 countries, from 18 at the start of the MTSP period, with particular emphasis on Asia and Eastern and Southern Africa. It produced its first mine-action strategy and strengthened its capacity to support mine-action in the field, with financial assistance from the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the Swedish Development Agency.

(See also pp. 780-91.)

HIV/AIDS

Since the inception of the 2002-2005 MTSP [YUN 2002, p. 1184], UNICEF had made major advances in establishing HIV/AIDS as an organizational priority. Key challenges continued to include the interaction of HIV/AIDS with poverty and humanitarian crises, the effects of stigma, silence and discrimination, and the weakness of local capacities for prevention, treatment and care. In 2003, all UNICEF country offices were cooperating to combat HIV/AIDS. The UNICEF supply operation (see p. 1214) was assisting Governments in over 40 countries to purchase anti-retroviral drugs and diagnostic equipment as access to therapies expanded with the support of the WHO-led initiative to reach 3 million people by 2005 (the "3 by 5" initiative) (see p. 1248). A national situational analysis on HIV/AIDS, children and young people was undertaken in 78 countries and was planned for a further 21.

Preventing HIV/AIDS among young people was the core of the UNICEF global response to the epidemic and was a priority in all regions. UNICEF continued to work with Governments to develop or update national plans in that regard. In 2003, national plans were in place for some 88 countries, compared with 80 in 2002, but many of the plans were not supported with adequate resources. UNICEF supported life-skills-based education for HIV prevention in most countries with high prevalence rates, and many programmes were operating on a large scale through schools. National strategies in HIV prevention education had been adopted by 71 countries in 2003, compared with 64 in 2002. In Andhra Pradesh, India, approximately 1.3 million young people were reached through 11,500 schools. Curriculum reform and teacher training were taking place with UNICEF support in East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Eastern Caribbean.

During 2003, UNICEF continued to be a lead supporter of prevention of parent-to-child transmission (PPTCT) programmes worldwide. A major development was the reduction in price of antiretroviral drugs and their increased availability for treatment through new global initiatives, with impetus from WHO and the United States. The priority for UNICEF and its partners was to move forward with PPTCT Plus, incorporating care and support for mothers, their children and families. The PPTCT Plus initiative, led by Columbia University (New York) and operated with UNICEF assistance in eight countries during 2003, was designed to increase synergy among PPTCT programmes by reducing stigma and offering mothers an additional incentive to participate. In 2003, UNICEF and its partners provided direct support to PPTCT programmes in 70 coun-

tries, up from 58 in 2002; five countries had nationwide programmes and 26 were in the process of scaling up.

Regarding the protection of children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, the first forum of global partners on orphans and vulnerable children, convened by UNICEF (Geneva, October), agreed on a framework for responding to the crisis. UNICEF also issued *Africa's Orphaned Generations*, a report which stressed both the protection and material needs of orphans and raised the visibility of children within the global response to HIV/AIDS. National strategies for the protection of orphans and vulnerable children were in place in 36 countries in 2003, compared to 31 in 2002, and were under development in a further 32 countries. UNICEF was supporting relevant programmes in 38 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

(For further information on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, see p. 1243.)

Operational and administrative matters

UNICEF finances

UNICEF income totalled \$1,680 million, an increase of \$226 million (16 per cent) over 2002, which resulted from substantial increases in emergency contributions and some growth in regular resource contributions and exchange rate gains. The total was higher than the financial plan forecast by 20 per cent. UNICEF derived its income primarily from Governments, which contributed \$1,127 million (67 per cent of total income), and from private sector or non-government sources, which provided \$516 million (31 per cent). The balance of \$37 million (2 per cent) was derived from other miscellaneous sources.

During its second regular session in September, the Executive Board took note of the UNICEF interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2002 [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.9].

Budget appropriations

In June [dec. 2003/6], the Board approved recommendations for the aggregate indicative budgets for 12 country programmes and a programme for Palestinian children and women, amounting to the following amounts for regular and other resources, respectively, by region: Africa, \$108,188,000 and \$201,744,000; the Americas and the Caribbean, \$3,912,000 and \$10,000,000; Asia, \$67,124,000 and \$79,000,000; and the Middle East and North Africa, \$3,200,000 and \$9,230,000. On 17 September [dec. 2003/12], the Board approved recommendations for funding of

\$13,023,000 from other resources only for country programmes in two countries and a Gulf Area sub-regional programme; \$2,208,730 in additional resources to fund the approved country programmes of eight countries; and \$789,594 from regular resources to cover overexpenditures from four programmes. A report of the Executive Board summarized the regular resources and other resources programmed for 2003 [E/ICEF/2003/P/L.25].

Also in June [dec. 2003/7], the Board approved an increase of \$100 million in the other resources ceiling for intercountry programmes, from \$203 million to \$303 million, for the 2002-2003 biennium, as recommended by the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2003/P/L.14].

During its extraordinary budgetary session (New York, 1-2 December), the Executive Board considered an October report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.15] on UNICEF's supplementary support budget for 2002-2003 [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.13] and biennial support budget for 2004-2005 [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.14]. Acting on the comments of ACABQ, the Executive Board, in December [dec. 2003/16], approved supplementary budget appropriations of \$8 million to cover salary increases and additional requirements for security, and approved gross appropriations in the amount of \$684,906,000 for UNICEF programme support in the field and at headquarters, and for management and administration [dec. 2003/17]. It resolved that income estimates of \$156,400,000 would be used to offset the gross appropriations, resulting in estimated net appropriations of \$528,506,000. The Board authorized the Executive Director to redeploy resources between appropriation lines up to a maximum of 5 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources were redeployed. The Board also approved an additional allocation of \$14 million for security-related provisions. It requested the Executive Director to continue to develop results-based budgeting for the 2006-2007 biennium, in close collaboration with other funds and programmes; to consult the Board if the level of resources available for programming fell significantly below the level projected in the 2004-2005 budget; and to explore options for timing the approval of the biennial support budget in the context of one of the existing regular board sessions and to report during the 2004 annual session.

As a result of the harmonization of the budgets of UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, proposals relating to intercountry programmes were presented separately from the support budget. Based on those proposals [E/ICEF/2003/P/L.29], the Executive Board, on 2 December [dec. 2003/18], approved a regular resources programme budget of \$25.19 million

(other than the Emergency Programme Fund) for 2004-2005. The Emergency Programme Fund budget was approved at \$25 million. The Board also approved an other resources-funded programme budget of \$302.2 million for the 2004-2005 biennium, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions. Further, a total recommendation of \$302.2 million for other resources funding was approved for the biennium.

In July [E/ICEF/2003/P/L.21], the Executive Director reported on the implementation of the modified system for allocation of regular resources for programmes, which was endorsed by the Board in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1220]. Since the system's introduction in 1999, the secretariat had implemented all of its features. The report described results of the implementation; links between the modified system and the 2002-2005 MTSP and with integrated budgeting; and measures for improving system implementation performance. On 19 September [dec. 2003/13], the Executive Board decided to continue to apply the modified system. It requested the Executive Director to intensify efforts to reach the target of 60 per cent of regular resources to be allocated to LDCs and maintain at least 50 per cent for sub-Saharan Africa, and to report to the Board no later than the second regular session of 2004. She was also asked to continue to review the modified system.

Audits

On 14 January [dec. 2002/3], the Executive Board took note of the UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2001 and the report of the Board of Auditors [A/57/5/Add.2 & Corr.1]. In October [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.10], UNICEF reported on steps taken or to be taken in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the UNICEF accounts for the 2000-2001 biennium.

In its sixth annual report [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.11 & Corr.1], the Office of Internal Audit stated that it completed 36 audits in 2002, including two audits at headquarters locations and three global summary reports. It found that overall, UNICEF controls were generally satisfactory, no location was found to be unsatisfactory in all audited areas, and most country offices and headquarters auditees took timely and adequate actions to address both the audit observations issued in 2002 and those that remained open from previous years.

Operational reserve

In response to a 2001 Executive Board decision [YUN 2001, p. 1098], the Executive Director, in March, reviewed the issue of establishing an op-

erational reserve [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.4]. The report stated that since the issue was last discussed by the Board in 2001, UNICEF had exceeded the requirement, under its current policy, to maintain year-end cash balances of regular resources income equal to about 10 per cent of the following year's regular resources income, as it had done since the measure was established in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 862]. In addition, UNICEF had met the informal liquidity ratio reported in its financial statements. While an operational reserve could provide a short-term response mechanism to address an unforeseen shortfall in receipts and income, and afford an opportunity to earn marginally increased interest income through longer-term investments, it also created a balance sheet asset at the expense of funding programmes, and might engender increased costs if it became necessary to break long-term investment commitments to utilize the funds. A 12 May letter from the ACABQ Chairman to the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.6 & Corr.1] contained ACABQ's comments on the report.

On 4 June [dec. 2003/8], the Executive Board recommended that UNICEF continue to manage its liquidity in accordance with the requirement approved by the Board, and that it not establish a funded operational reserve.

Recovery policy

In January, the Executive Board considered a review of the current recovery policy for support costs for programmes funded from other resources [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.1], which the Executive Board approved in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 1100] as an interim policy and was a core part of the financial procedures related to supplementary-funded projects. The review recommended action to the Board regarding revisions to the policy. The Board also had before it ACABQ's comments on the review [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.2]. An April report [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.5] discussed consultations by UNICEF with regional groups, national committees and, in some cases, bilateral consultations on the policy, which identified key areas of consensus on the underlying principles of the recovery policy and key areas of concern, including harmonization; thematic and private sector fundraising; simplification of the proposal; interest income on other resources cash balances; and UN reform and new funding modality. A 12 May letter from the ACABQ Chairman to the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.6 & Corr.1] presented ACABQ's comments on the April report.

On 5 June [dec. 2003/9], the Executive Board requested all donors to strive to increase contributions to regular resources, and requested the Executive Director to hold consultations to en-

courage donors to increase the proportion of contributions to regular resources. It endorsed the objectives that other resources support the MTSP priorities and that regular resources should not subsidize the support costs for other resources programmes, and it encouraged UNICEF to apply procedures that reduced transaction costs for other resources programmes (see below). It also endorsed the aim of eliminating, in the medium term, the subsidy of support costs for other resources programmes by regular resources. The Board called on donors contributing to other resources to consider directing those contributions to the five thematic areas of the MTSP (see p. 1206) and called on all donors to simplify their administrative and reporting requirements to significantly reduce the administrative costs of their contributions to other resources. The Board decided to apply, as an interim measure, the methodology, as described in the review report (see p. 1212). It authorized the Executive Director to apply the following rates to new agreements to be signed after Executive Board approval of the revised policy on an interim basis: 5 per cent for all resources raised from the private sector in the programme countries; for other private sector resources, 5 per cent for thematic contributions and 7 per cent for non-thematic contributions; for other contributions to thematic areas, 8 per cent; and an additional reduction of 1 per cent for 90 per cent of up-front payments. For non-thematic contributions, the Board authorized 12 per cent and additional reductions of 1 per cent for 90 per cent of up-front payments, 1 per cent for contributions over \$500,000, 2 per cent for contributions over \$2 million, 3 per cent for contributions over \$10 million, and, as a transitional arrangement through 2004, 4 per cent for contributions over \$40 million. The Board requested the Executive Director to bring the issue of the recovery policy to the attention of the UNDG working group on harmonization and simplification, with a view to harmonizing the methodology used by UNDG members in devising their recovery policies. It also requested the Executive Director to report to the Board on the experiences of the recovery policy, especially on actual cost recovery achieved and recovery rates applied to projects during this period, on its effects on the regular resources and on the harmonization efforts undertaken, and to submit proposals for further steps towards the elimination of any remaining subsidy of support costs of other resources programmes by regular resources at the second regular session of the Executive Board in 2005, for a review of the interim policy.

Also on 5 June [dec. 2003/10], the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to sub-

mit, in 2004, an assessment report, based on country-specific examples, of the UNICEF experience of joint programming and other innovative and collaborative approaches aimed at improving programming and reducing transaction costs for programme countries and their associated costs and benefits.

Resource mobilization

UNICEF continued to collaborate with Governments to mobilize both regular and other resources, holding 17 consultations or high-level visits with donor Governments. A further 59 discussions and presentations were held on thematic, technical or programmatic issues. The discussions increasingly focused on UNICEF's strategic contributions to the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]; the need to obtain regular resources contributions to strengthen UNICEF's core capacity to support national priorities over the medium term; and flexible, thematic contributions that did not entail high transaction costs.

At a January pledging event, 62 Governments pledged a total of \$392 million to regular resources, and, by year's end, 90 Governments had contributed \$403 million, an increase of 10 per cent compared to 2002; some 28 Governments increased their contributions. The United States remained the largest donor with a contribution of \$119.2 million, followed by Norway (\$46.2 million), Sweden (\$36.3 million), the Netherlands (\$32.7 million), the United Kingdom (\$27.8 million) and Denmark (\$26.9 million).

In the area of thematic funding for MTSP priorities, a total of \$29.4 million was mobilized from four Governments (\$24.4 million from Andorra, Finland, Norway and Sweden) and eight national committees (\$5 million from the committees in Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

Private Sector Division

Net income from UNICEF Private Sector Division (PSD) activities for the year ending 31 December 2003 totalled \$289.4 million for regular resources, \$8 million (2.9 per cent) higher than the \$281.4 million achieved in 2002 [E/ICEF/2004/AB/L.9]. That amount included \$47.1 million from UNICEF card and gift sales, \$249.5 million from private sector fund-raising activities, a positive exchange rate adjustment of \$6.3 million and investment fund expenditures of \$13.5 million. In addition, \$172.2 million (\$141.9 million in 2002) was raised from private sector fund-raising activities that were earmarked for other resources. The net consolidated income, including

both regular and other resources, amounted to \$461.6 million, an increase of \$38.3 million compared to the 2002 net consolidated income of \$423.3 million. Excluding a one-time legacy in 2002 of \$56.2 million, the net increase in 2003 was \$94.5 million (25.8 per cent).

On 15 January [dec. 2003/4], the Executive Board approved budgeted expenditures of \$80.9 million for the PSD work plan for 2003 [E/ICEF/2003/AB/L.3]. The Executive Director was authorized to redeploy resources between various budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved, and to spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2003 approved work plan. The Board renewed investment funds with \$14.2 million established for 2003; authorized the Executive Director to incur expenditures in 2003 related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for 2004, up to \$30.5 million; and approved the PSD medium-term plan for 2004-2007.

JIU report

In January, the Executive Board had before it a secretariat note [E/ICEF/2003/5] on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning issues of relevance to UNICEF, prepared between September 2001 and September 2002. On 13 January [dec. 2003/2] the Board took note of the document.

Joint Committee on Education

The Executive Board considered a report of the eighth meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education (Paris, 25 November 2002) [E/ICEF/2003/8], which addressed collaboration in the two core areas of EFA and girls' education at the international, regional and national levels, focusing on results, impacts and major challenges ahead. The Joint Committee, having decided that it had fulfilled its original mandate, agreed to recommend to the UNESCO and UNICEF Executive Boards that it be discontinued and asked the secretariats of both agencies to propose ways of strengthening coordination.

On 15 January [dec. 2003/5], the UNICEF Executive Board agreed with the Joint Committee's recommendation and requested the UNICEF secretariat to work with the UNESCO secretariat on strengthening coordination.

Supply operations

The Executive Board had before it a review of the UNICEF supply function in the context of the

MTSP, which provided an overview of the UNICEF Supply Division and discussed the supply component of the five organizational priorities of the MTSP [E/ICEF/2003/7]. It also reviewed the Division's procurement services for governmental and non-governmental partners and its work with the oil-for-food programme in Iraq (see p. 362), and discussed steps taken to improve the efficiency of UNICEF's global supply operation and the Division's alliances and partnerships. The report addressed future challenges, including the issue of vaccine security; the increased demand for antiretroviral medicines for the treatment of people with HIV/AIDS and for insecticide-impregnated bednets to help prevent malaria in young children and pregnant women; the procurement of key commodities in a more complex business environment; and the procurement of supporting supplies.

Youth

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

UN policies and programmes on youth in 2003 continued to focus on efforts to implement the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2002 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 50/81 [YUN 1995, p. 1211]. The Programme of Action addressed the problems faced by youth worldwide and outlined ways to enhance youth participation in national and international policy- and decision-making.

An expert group meeting on jobs for youth: national strategies for employment promotion (Geneva, 15-16 January) was organized by the UN Division for Social Policy and Development in collaboration with ILO.

World Youth Report 2003

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/117 [YUN 2001, p. 1100], the Secretary-General, by a May note [A/58/79], transmitted the World Youth Report 2003 [E/CN.5/2003/4], a comprehensive report on the global situation of youth, which he had presented to the forty-first session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 27 February 2002 and 10-21 February 2003) [E/2003/26] (see p. 1099). The report stated that from 1995 to 2000, the world's youth population was estimated to have grown by an average of 0.7 per cent, from 1.025 billion to 1.061 billion, with 85 per cent living in developing countries. Based on the findings of an expert group meeting on global priorities for youth (Helsinki, Fin-

land, October 2002), the report contained a review of the 10 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, namely education, employment, hunger and poverty, health issues, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure, girls and young women, and youth participation. It also reviewed five new concerns that had emerged since the adoption of the Programme of Action, including the impact of globalization on young people; the use of and access to information and communication technologies; the dramatic increase in HIV infections among young people and the epidemic's impact on their lives; the active involvement of young people in armed conflict; and the increased importance of addressing intergenerational issues in an ageing society. The report presented recommendations on those priorities and concerns.

The report evaluated the 2001 World Youth Forum of the United Nations System [YUN 2001, p. 1100] and recommended that future sessions of the Forum be based on an intergovernmental mandate emanating from the Assembly. It also suggested that, in order to promote meaningful youth participation, Governments should take a more positive stance when addressing young people's ideas and questions.

Youth employment

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/165 [YUN 2002, p. 1192], the Secretary-General, in August [A/58/229], reported on the promotion of youth employment and progress achieved by the Youth Employment Network, formed by the Secretary-General in collaboration with ILO in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1100]. ILO estimated that about 74 million young women and men were unemployed worldwide, accounting for 41 per cent of the 180 million unemployed globally; many more were working long hours for low pay. An estimated 59 million young people between the ages of 15 and 17 were engaged in hazardous work. In response to a questionnaire on the current status of national action plans for youth employment, 19 of the 37 responding Member States reported that they had not prepared a national action plan; of those, 11 reported that they were planning to do so. Several Member States reported that they did not have a specific action plan for youth employment because the issue was already being addressed as part of an overall action plan for employment or that there were already programmes in place addressing the issue.

The report stated that the Network's High-level Panel on Youth Employment had set up Working Groups on employability, equal opportunities, entrepreneurship and employment cre-

ation, corresponding to the four priority areas for national action plans identified in 2001 [ibid.]. The results of the Working Groups were integrated into a consolidated document that provided further guidance in the four areas and were the subject of discussion at the Panel's second High-level Meeting (Geneva, 30 June–1 July) (see below). The Network's activities were being coordinated with the work of UNDG, the United Nations Millennium Development Project—an advisory body launched by the Secretary-General and the UNDP Administrator to recommend strategies for achieving the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]—and with the overall strategy for implementation of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [ibid., p. 49].

The fifth session of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (Rome, 26–27 March) [CEB/2003/4] confirmed its strong support for the Network. It called on its members to contribute actively to Governments' efforts to develop national reviews and action plans and to provide inputs to the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly's fifty-eighth (2003) session.

The second meeting of the Network's High-level Panel (Geneva, 30 June–1 July) discussed a draft action programme recommending the next five steps to be taken by the Network, including a call for the Network to endorse the Panel's recommendations on the four priorities for national action plans, based on road maps produced by the Panel's four Working Groups; initiatives to stimulate and encourage Governments to design and implement national action plans, as called for in Assembly resolution 57/165 [YUN 2002, p. 1192]; a proposal for social dialogue on youth employment; an invitation to youth organizations worldwide to advise on the design of youth employment programmes, contribute to the implementation of those programmes, help Governments monitor progress towards their youth employment commitments, and work with the Panel in an advisory capacity; and a call for the World Bank and ILO to develop jointly an initiative for mobilizing funding for national youth employment programmes and for the work of the Network's secretariat. Following the meeting, the secretariat undertook joint consultations on strengthening the coherence of its youth employment activities in three areas, including a political process: linking policy to action; mapping the challenge of youth employment; and promoting initiatives and programmes with proven impact through network development.

In March, ILO's Governing Body called on the Youth Employment Network and its core partner institutions (ILO, the World Bank and the UN Secretariat) to support Member States in carrying out national reviews and action plans on youth employment. A guidance note for the preparation of reviews and action plans, which was annexed to the report, was sent to all Member States. The Network, under ILO's leadership, was called on to carry out from 2004 to early 2005, in cooperation with the Secretariat, the World Bank and other relevant agencies, a global analysis and evaluation of the reviews and plans and of progress made by the Network. ILO intended to prepare the global analysis and evaluation in the framework of its World Employment Report 2005. The analysis would also contribute to the five-year review of the MDGs in 2005.

The report concluded that, to prepare for the next phase of the Network's activities, which focused on country-level action, it was urgent that Member States submit their national reviews and action plans and that steps be taken to mobilize the necessary resources for implementation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 42], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2003/26], adopted **resolution 2003/11** without vote [agenda item 14 (b)].

Policies and programmes involving youth

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recognizing that the Declaration includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

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

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations as well as other relevant international instruments,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and their full enjoyment by young people,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

2. *Reaffirms* that the ten priority areas identified in the Programme of Action, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health issues, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure, girls and young women, and youth participation, remain areas of crucial importance;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of the five issues of concern to young people identified in the report of the Secretary-General, namely, the mixed impact of globalization on young women and men; the use of and access to information and communication technologies;

the dramatic increase of HIV infections among young people and the impact of the epidemic on their lives; the active involvement of young people in armed conflict, both as victims and as perpetrators; and the increased importance of addressing intergenerational issues in an ageing society;

4. *Also recognizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of youth and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation, and the need to support the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights but different needs and strengths and are active agents for decision-making processes, positive change and development in society;

5. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, aiming at cross-sectoral youth policies by integrating a youth perspective into all planning and decision-making processes relevant to youth;

6. *Recommends* that the United Nations system, on the basis of the positive experience of youth participation in the work of the United Nations, inter alia, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly on children, continue to provide opportunities for dialogue between Governments and representatives of youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through forums, open-ended dialogues, meetings and debates;

7. *Also recommends* that the convening of a future world youth forum be based on an intergovernmental decision emanating from the General Assembly;

8. *Invites* the General Assembly to consider devoting, at its sixtieth session, in 2005, two plenary meetings to reviewing the situation of youth and achievements produced in the implementation of the Programme of Action ten years after its adoption;

9. *Also invites* the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to provide the Assembly, at its sixtieth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session, with a comprehensive report on the priority areas of youth identified in the Programme of Action, calling upon the experience of the Member States, organizations, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions, and youth organizations, in their multidisciplinary work for and with youth;

10. *Further invites* the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General, in preparing the report requested in paragraph 9 above, to take into account the five concerns identified in paragraph 3 above.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee

[A/58/497 (Part II)], adopted **resolution 58/133** without vote [agenda item 106].

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations as well as other relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two Optional Protocols thereto,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and their full enjoyment by young people,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recognizing that the Millennium Declaration includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits held since 1990 and their follow-up processes, in particular those commitments that are related to youth, including youth employment,

Recognizing that the participation of young people is an asset and a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth and social development, and expressing deep concern about the magnitude of youth unemployment and underemployment throughout the world and its profound implications for the future of our societies, particularly those in developing countries,

Acknowledging that poverty, among other factors, represents a serious challenge to the full and effective participation and contribution of young people to society,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto,

Recalling also its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which it took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998, and its resolutions 56/117 of 19 December 2001 and 57/165 of 18 December 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the World Youth Report 2003 and on promoting youth employment;

2. *Reaffirms* that the ten priority areas identified in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health issues, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure, girls and young women, and youth participation, remain areas of crucial importance;

3. *Takes note* of the five issues of concern to young people identified in the World Youth Report 2003, namely, the mixed impact of globalization on young women and men, the use of and access to information and communication technologies, the dramatic increase of human immunodeficiency virus infections among young people and the impact of the epidemic on their lives, the active involvement of young people in armed conflict, both as victims and as perpetrators, and the increased importance of addressing inter-generational issues in an ageing society;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the World Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress

achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation, as well as the need to support the activities of mechanisms that have been set up by young people and youth organizations, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights but different needs and strengths and are active agents in decision-making processes and for positive change and development in society;

5. *Also recognizes* the great importance of empowering young people by building their capacity to achieve greater independence, overcoming constraints to their participation and providing them with opportunities to make decisions that affect their lives and well-being;

6. *Calls upon* all Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort to implement the World Programme of Action, aiming at cross-sectoral youth policies, by integrating a youth perspective into all planning and decision-making processes relevant to youth;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done by the regional commissions to implement the World Programme of Action, to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional non-governmental youth organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region, and encourages them to continue to do so;

8. *Recommends* that the United Nations system, on the basis of the positive experience of youth participation in the work of the United Nations, inter alia, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly on children, continue to provide opportunities for dialogue between Governments and representatives of youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through forums, open-ended dialogues, meetings and debates;

9. *Decides* that the organization of a future world youth forum should be based on a decision of the General Assembly;

10. *Notes* the decision of eight countries to volunteer as lead countries in the preparation of national reviews and action plans on youth employment;

11. *Encourages* Member States to prepare national reviews and action plans on youth employment, either integrated into their national action plans on employment or issued as separate documents, to make full use of existing data and statistics and to involve young people and youth organizations in this process, taking into account, inter alia, the commitments made by Member States in this regard, in particular those included in the World Programme of Action, and, where such reviews and action plans exist, to submit them to the Secretariat by September 2004;

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

13. *Recommends* devoting two plenary meetings at its sixtieth session, in 2005, to review the situation of youth and achievements attained in the implementation of the World Programme of Action ten years after its adoption;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with regard to paragraph 4 above, to consider organizing a consultative meeting with youth organizations and youth representatives, taking into account equitable geographical distribution, on the evaluation of the progress made and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the World Programme of Action in preparation for the two plenary meetings of the General Assembly to be held in 2005, and to include the outcome of the meeting in his report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session;

15. *Invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions to encourage contributions;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the provision by some Member States of expertise and financial resources to support the activities of the Youth Employment Network, and invites all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Network in support of action taken at the country level within the framework of the Network;

17. *Reiterates* the call made in the World Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues, and requests the Secretary-General to convey this invitation again to Member States;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session, with a comprehensive report including an evaluation of the implementation since 1995 of the priority areas identified in the World Programme of Action, including actions taken by Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and youth organizations in their multidisciplinary work for and with youth;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the report requested in paragraph 18 above, to bear in mind the five issues identified in paragraph 3 above and discuss them in an annex to the report;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment.

[E/2003/26] (see p. 1099), considered a Secretariat note [E/CN.5/2003/7] on the Commission's role in integrating the different dimensions of population ageing in its work and the modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1194], which was adopted in 2002 by the Second World Assembly on Ageing [ibid., p. 1193]. The note underscored ageing as a cross-cutting theme and the need to integrate it into the broader agendas of the Economic and Social Council, General Assembly and other relevant functional commissions. As for the Commission, its role in the follow-up became more important in the light of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe Ministerial Conference on Ageing (Berlin, 11-13 September 2002) [ECE/AC.23/2002/2/Rev.6], whose follow-up process was made contingent on what was decided by the Commission.

The note presented a proposal for a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing that would involve open-ended dialogues, meetings and forums with various stakeholders at local levels both in and outside of government, and in partnership and coordination with national actors. Regional entities, notably the regional commissions and their intergovernmental bodies, should play an active role in implementation assessment by networking with their member countries, national committees and other stakeholders in the exchange of information and the gathering and compiling of data and research findings. It was envisaged that the Commission would provide the forum in which stakeholders would present and elaborate on their findings. The Commission was invited to consider the review and appraisal approach and to reach an understanding on the format and substantive outcome. The note recommended that the Commission consider a review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every four or five years. In identifying the themes or issues for the review, it recommended that the Commission adhere to the Plan's recommendations and its priority directions, namely, ageing and development, advancing health and well-being into old age, and ensuring enabling and supportive environments [YUN 2002, p. 1193]. It also recommended that the Commission adopt the "bottom-up" review and appraisal approach.

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) would facilitate the review process, including the preparation of materials for a review strategy, advocacy, and information dissemination and exchange. Under the Commission's

Ageing persons

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002)

Note by Secretariat. The Commission for Social Development, at its forty-first session (New York, 27 February 2002 and 10-21 February 2003)

guidance, DESA could also develop guidelines for the review of the Madrid Plan of Action.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 42], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2003/26], adopted **resolution 2003/14** without vote [agenda item 14 (b)].

Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the goals and targets in the economic, social and related fields contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, supplemented by the outcomes of their reviews, constitute a comprehensive basis for actions at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002 and all previous Assembly resolutions on ageing and the International Year of Older Persons,

Recalling further the resolutions adopted by the Commission for Social Development on ageing and on the preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 57/167, the General Assembly invited the Commission to consider the modalities for reviews and appraisals of the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Bearing in mind also that the Commission is responsible for follow-up to and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and that it should consider integrating into its work the different dimensions of population ageing as contained in the Madrid Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind further the work of the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly 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, established pursuant to Assembly resolution 57/270 A of 20 December 2002,

1. *Invites* all actors at all levels, as appropriate, to participate in the implementation of and follow-up to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

2. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system to consider mainstreaming ageing issues into their work plans;

3. *Invites* Members States and other stakeholders to mainstream ageing into the design and implementation of their policies and programmes;

4. *Invites* Governments as well as the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a “bottom-up” approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, through, *inter alia*, sharing of ideas, data collection and best practices;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session information on the implementation of the present resolution.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/167 [YUN 2002, p. 1197] on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002) [ibid., p. 1193] and resolution 57/177 on the situation of older women in society [ibid., p. 1153], the Secretary-General, in July [A/58/160], reported on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1194]. During the first year following the World Assembly, progress was seen in several areas, including intergovernmental processes, inter-agency activities, regional actions, research and information dissemination.

The report introduced the road map for the implementation of the Plan of Action, which was intended to assist countries in developing implementation strategies at the national level by helping to set priorities, select approaches and stimulate international cooperation. It took into consideration the Plan’s recommendations for implementation and follow-up, and incorporated the Plan’s priorities for international cooperation on ageing. National capacity-building and mainstreaming of ageing into the national development agenda were two universal and essential facets of the implementation process, particularly in developing countries and those with economies in transition. The DESA Programme on Ageing, as the UN focal point on ageing, would facilitate the evolving road map project through networking within and outside the UN system. National action would include the convening of workshops. At the international level, ageing would need to be linked to the global agendas on poverty, children and youth, the advancement of women, rural development and HIV/AIDS. The report identified the lack of age-disaggregated data in many countries as a serious limitation to policy formulation and development, and recommended that the Assembly consider requesting the Statistical Commission to develop modalities for disaggregating statistics on the basis of age and sex. While dialogue on ageing had increased significantly among stakeholders, the inclusion of ageing in development processes was constrained by the lack of data and formulation of indicators. The report recommended that the Assembly ensure the incorporation of ageing into actions to achieve the MDG on the eradication of poverty, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], and that it consider requesting UN organizations and specialized agencies to take up the issue of mainstreaming ageing in their work programmes and to report on progress to the Commission for Social Development.

The situation of older women and the gender aspects of ageing should receive explicit attention

from Governments and other stakeholders. The report proposed that the Assembly recommend the establishment or strengthening of institutional linkages at the national level between national machineries for the advancement of women and governmental bodies responsible for developing, coordinating and/or implementing age-related policies and programmes. Opportunities for systematic attention to the gender aspects of ageing and the situation of older women should continue to be enhanced within the UN system, and the mainstreaming of ageing should be undertaken from a gender perspective. Opportunities should be explored for further coordination and collaboration between the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1192), with regard to older women and in the framework of their multi-year programmes of work.

Regarding the proposed “bottom-up” narrative approach to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action (see p. 1218), the Secretary-General stated that additional efforts were required to clarify the content of modalities and periodicity of the review and appraisal process, and recommended that the Assembly request the Commission for Social Development to take up that task in 2004. He also recommended that the Assembly suggest that the Commission apply an ageing perspective in its consideration of priority themes related to the follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development [YUN 1995, p. 1113].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/58/498], adopted **resolution 58/134** without vote [agenda item 107].

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and welcomed the preparation by the Programme on Ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat of a road map for the process of implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as its resolution 57/177 of 18 December 2002, in which it stressed, *inter alia*, the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, in which the Council invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a “bottom-up” approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, in which it agreed to the framework for an inte-

grated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields and reaffirmed the importance of regularly reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the commitments undertaken at individual major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recognizing that the follow-up to and the implementation of the outcome of the Second World Assembly on Ageing is an integral part of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recognizing also that a tremendous global demographic change is to be expected during the next fifty years, in both developing and developed countries, as well as in countries with economies in transition, and that since this change will be the most rapid in developing countries, where the older population is expected to quadruple over the same period of time, it is imperative that ageing be integrated into development policies for the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Aware that the lack of data disaggregated by age and sex is an impediment to the consideration of ageing issues and the situation of older persons at both the international and the national policy levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Also takes note* of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, contained in the report of the Secretary-General;
3. *Invites* Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to incorporate ageing, as appropriate, into actions to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty;
4. *Stresses* the need for action at the national and international levels to implement the Madrid Plan of Action, including the need to set national and international priorities and to select appropriate approaches to ensure that countries achieve a society for all ages;
5. *Encourages* the establishment of institutional linkages at the national level between national machineries for the advancement of women and those governmental entities responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of ageing-related policies and programmes;
6. *Stresses* that the role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, is important in supporting Governments in their implementation and assessment of and follow-up to the Madrid Plan of Action;
7. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider ageing when elaborating its list of cross-sectoral thematic issues common to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits for the establishment of the multi-year programme of work for the coordination segment of its substantive session;
8. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to integrate an ageing perspective in its consideration

of priority themes related to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development;

9. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women to further coordinate and collaborate through their respective bureaux on the issue of older women within the framework of their respective multi-year programmes of work;

10. *Recalls*, in this regard, its request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity, while noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report containing recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council on its methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body, bearing in mind the progress recently achieved in this regard by certain commissions, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development, and recalling that the functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Council should report to it no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

11. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to take up the issue of the periodicity and the format of the review of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action at its forty-second session, taking into account the provisions of resolution 57/270 B;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the collection of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United

Nations to support national efforts in capacity-building, especially those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, takes note in this context of the establishment by the United Nations of an Internet-accessible database on ageing, and invites States to submit, whenever possible, information for inclusion in the database;

13. *Requests* the Statistical Commission to assist Member States in developing modalities for disaggregating data by age and sex;

14. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies to integrate ageing, including from a gender perspective, into their programmes of work and to report on their progress to the Commission for Social Development;

15. *Invites* the international financial institutions and the regional development banks to take older persons into account in their policies and projects as part of the effort to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

16. *Recommends* that the institutional linkages between United Nations gender focal points and focal points on ageing be strengthened in order to enhance the integration of the gender aspects of ageing within the system;

17. *Welcomes* the progress made in the work of some of the regional commissions in implementing the objectives and recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action, and encourages other regional commissions to make progress in this regard;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward his report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-second session and to make available any other relevant information related to this issue that may assist the Commission in its deliberations;

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