

Chapter VII

Environment and human settlements

In 2004, the United Nations and the international community continued to protect the environment through legally binding instruments and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The UNEP Governing Council/fifth Global Ministerial Environment Forum held its eighth special session on the theme of the environmental dimensions of water, sanitation and human settlements, as part of its follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The summary of its consultations—the Jeju Initiative—addressed key environmental dimensions and concepts for meeting the water-related targets of the 2000 Millennium Declaration. The meeting also adopted decisions relating to international environmental governance; small island developing States; regional implementation of UNEP’s work programme; and waste management.

The High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, established by GC/GMEF in March, adopted in December the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, designed to provide targeted long- and short-term measures for support in those areas to developing countries and economies in transition. The first Global Women’s Assembly on Environment: Women as the Voice for the Environment, held in October, adopted a manifesto calling for urgent action to achieve sustainable development and made recommendations for action, among others, on gender issues with regard to global environmental change.

The Conference of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the Buenos Aires programme of work on measures dealing with adaptation and response to climate change. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. The 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which entered into force on 24 February, held its first Conference of the Parties to the Convention in September. The 2001 Stockholm Con-

vention on Persistent Organic Pollutants also entered into force on 17 May.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued to support the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda; the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration; the 2001 Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium; and the human settlements-related elements of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. It convened the second session of the World Urban Forum in September. In 2004, UN-Habitat had 95 technical cooperation programmes and projects under execution in 56 countries.

Environment

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

The fifth Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF), also serving as the eighth special session of the Governing Council (GC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was held at Jeju, Republic of Korea, from 29 to 31 March [A/59/25].

GC/GMEF discussed the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821]; UNEP’s contribution to the twelfth (2004) session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see p. 827) in the form of ministerial consultations on the theme “Environmental dimensions of water, sanitation and human settlements”. The theme was addressed through three focus areas: integrated ecosystem approaches by the year 2005; water and sanitation; and water, health and poverty. A summary of the consultations, entitled the Jeju Initiative (see p. 1044), was annexed to the GC/GMEF report.

The Committee of the Whole (29-31 March) considered assessment, monitoring and early warning; the state of the environment (see p. 1041); outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to GC/GMEF [UNEP/GCSS.VII/3]; and international environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the World Sum-

mit and the seventh (2002) special session of GC/GMEF [YUN 2002, p. 1030] on the 2002 report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance [ibid., p. 1032] (see p. 1038). The Committee's report was annexed to the Governing Council's report.

On 23 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Governing Council's report on its eighth special session (**decision 2004/301**).

Subsidiary body

In 2004, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which was open to representatives of all UN Member States and members of specialized agencies, held an extraordinary meeting on 26 February and regular meetings on 15 April, 1 July, 1 September [UNEP/GC.23/INF/4], and 7 December [UNEP/CPR/90/2]. The Committee discussed, among other matters, preparations for and the outcome of the Governing Council's eighth (2004) special session, implementation of UNEP's programme of work and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council's twenty-first [YUN 2002, p. 1030] and twenty-second [YUN 2003, p. 1036] sessions, UNEP relations with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), and the status of the Environment Fund.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/59/483], adopted **resolution 59/226** without vote [agenda item 85].

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003,

Taking into account Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

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

Recalling the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on the full implementation of the outcomes of the decision on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session,

Reiterating the need to ensure that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries, as

well as countries with economies in transition, in environment-related fields, remain important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and noting in this regard the ongoing work of the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group to prepare an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building,

Recalling its resolutions 57/251 and 58/209, by which Member States, the Governing Council and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system were encouraged to submit their comments, in a timely manner, on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, in order to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration before its sixtieth session,

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

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolutions 57/251 and 58/209;

3. *Notes* that the Governing Council, at its eighth special session, discussed all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance, as contained in its decision SS.VII/1, and notes the continued discussion scheduled for its twenty-third session;

4. *Emphasizes* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to further contribute to sustainable development programmes, the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at all levels and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

5. *Calls upon* all countries to further engage in the negotiations of the intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building with a view to its adoption at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council, in February 2005;

6. *Notes* the differences in the views expressed so far on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum, notes also the upcoming consideration of the question of universal membership by the Council/Forum at its twenty-third session, encourages Member States, the Governing Council and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to submit their comments to the Secretariat on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Council/Forum, including the legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, as their contribution to the report of the Secretary-General and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report incorporating those views to the Assembly for consideration at its sixty-first session;

7. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and in

this respect welcomes the continued participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Development Group;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to contribute, within its mandate and as a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force, to the preparations for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005;

9. *Notes* the decision of the Governing Council to discuss at its twenty-third session issues related to domestic, industrial and hazardous waste management, in particular regarding capacity-building and technology support, and, in that context, to consider innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources from all appropriate sources to support the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in this area;

10. *Also notes* the decision of the Governing Council to review at its twenty-third session the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation on the strengthening of the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme;

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

12. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the provisions of section III.B. of the appendix to decision SS.VII/1 of the Governing Council on strengthening the role and financial situation of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the significant broadening of the donor base and increasing total contributions to the Environment Fund, and, in this regard, notes that the Governing Council will review the implementation of those provisions at its twenty-third session;

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

International environmental governance

In response to 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1033] and 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1039] Governing Council decisions, the Executive Director, in a February overview report on international governance [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5], detailed progress achieved on the issues of universal membership for GC/GMEF (see below); strengthening UNEP's scientific base (see p. 1041); the development of an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building (see p. 1039); strengthening UNEP financing (see p. 1049); multilateral environmental agreements (see p. 1050); and en-

hanced coordination across the UN system and the Environmental Management Group (see below).

He also submitted, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/251 [YUN 2002, p. 1031] and the above-mentioned 2003 Council decision, in March [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/6], a synthesis of the views of Governments concerning the question of universal membership of GC/GMEF. Of the 19 replies received as of 1 March, including one representing the 25 members and acceding States of the European Union, 13 expressed their support for universal membership, 3 were opposed, 2 others had not yet decided their positions, and one indicated that the matter was being positively pursued. The views and comments presented in the note focused on the legality, legitimacy and practical and financial implications of universal membership.

On 31 March [A/59/25 (dec. SS.VIII/1, section I)], the Council requested the Executive Director to continue to invite views on the universal membership of GC/GMEF and to convey them to the Secretary-General as an input for his report requested by the Assembly in resolutions 57/251 and 58/209 [YUN 2003, p. 1037]. He should report on the matter at the twenty-third (2005) GC/GMEF session.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolutions 57/251 and 58/209, the Secretary-General submitted his report in August [A/59/262] on establishing universal membership for GC/GMEF, which outlined consideration of the issue by GC/GMEF. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly encourage Member States, the Governing Council and the relevant UN system bodies to submit their comments on the issue to the UNEP Executive Director, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, for incorporation in the Secretary-General's report to be submitted to the Assembly for consideration at its sixtieth (2005) session.

The Assembly took action on the report in resolution 59/226 (see p. 1037).

Environmental Management Group

The Environmental Management Group (EMG), an inter-agency advisory group set up in 1999 to coordinate UN system activities in addressing the major challenges in the UNEP work programme [YUN 1999, p. 974], held its sixth (Geneva, 6 February), seventh (New York, 20 April), eighth (Nairobi, Kenya, 1 September) and ninth (Geneva, 8 November) meetings in 2004.

A February report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.2] summarized EMG's work from mid-2003 to February 2004, covering activities relating to its contribution to major

intergovernmental processes, including international environmental governance, implementation of the outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements (see p. 1044) and strengthening of UNEP's scientific base (see p. 1041). The report also discussed planned activities; links with intergovernmental forums and other UN system coordination mechanisms; and the functioning of the EMG secretariat. The work of EMG's issue management group on the harmonization of information management and reporting for biodiversity-related conventions, established in 2001, were detailed in an annex to the report. In February, EMG established an issue management group on environmental capacity-building to discuss the issue further and to develop a specific, time-bound programme of work, which would consider, as its immediate focus, the development of an environmental capacity-building resource library.

A February note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/5] contained information on the activities of EMG members in the field of water, focusing on environmental aspects and the ecosystem approach, as a contribution to the eighth (2004) special session of GC/GMEF and the twelfth (2004) session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see p. 827).

Governing Council action. On 31 March [dec. SS.VIII/1, section VI], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue to promote UN-system coordination of environmental activities, in particular those relevant to UN system operations, through EMG's work. It decided to convey the report on EMG's work to the General Assembly as an annex to the 2004 report of GC/GMEF. The Executive Director was requested to submit a report to GC/GMEF in 2005, including a comprehensive assessment of the location of the EMG secretariat, taking into account, among other things, current efforts to strengthen UNON—the headquarters of UNEP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)—and EMG's mandate and membership.

Reports of Executive Director. In response to Governing Council decision [SS.VIII/1, section VI] (above), the Executive Director, in a December report [UNEP/GC.23/7], summarized EMG's work under its 2004-2005 work programme and outlined its 2006-2007 work programme.

Environmental capacity-building and sustainable procurement for the UN system constituted the bulk of EMG's programme of work for 2004. With regard to environmental capacity-building, EMG focused on defining its role as a facilitator for more coordinated exchange of information and data on lessons learned, experiences and

methodologies within the UN system, and on the possibility of establishing a resource library. Two pilot situation/needs analyses in biodiversity and chemicals management capacity-building, prepared in cooperation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (see p. 1063) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, constituted EMG's contribution to the third meeting (Bali, Indonesia, 2-4 December) of the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (see p. 1040). The main findings of both studies were discussed in the report, as were EMG's contributions to the development of a strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building (see below).

On the question of sustainable procurement, EMG discussed how it could best assist in the development of sustainable procurement policies and environmental management programmes throughout the UN system. It established an issue management group with the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics as the task manager, with other agencies, to survey current regulations and activities and address the development of supplier codes of conduct and training.

Among its future activities, EMG would support the implementation of the internationally agreed goals of the UN Millennium Declaration, adopted in General Assembly resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], in the areas of its mandate; continue work on environment-related capacity-building; and address specific issues related to urban poverty and environment, as requested by UN-Habitat.

Strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building

In response to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1038], the Executive Director submitted in February [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.1 & Corr.1] the elements for an intergovernmental strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building, as called for in a 2002 decision of the Council [YUN 2002, p. 1033].

On 31 March [dec. SS.VIII/1, section III], the Governing Council established a high-level, open-ended intergovernmental working group of GC/GMEF to prepare an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building, for its consideration in 2005. The group would consider, among other things, the draft elements for the plan submitted by the Executive Director (see above). The Council requested the Executive Director to seek additional financial resources to facilitate the participation

of developing countries in the Group's meetings. It invited Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (see p. 1046), other relevant bodies and UN system organizations, international financial institutions and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, to contribute to the group's work; and regional and subregional ministerial environmental forums to submit for the group's consideration, views on their technology support and capacity-building needs. The Executive Director would make available reports, including an inventory of UNEP's capacity-building and technology support activities, to assist the working group.

Intergovernmental working group. The High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building held its first (New York, 25 June) [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/5], second (Nairobi, 2-4 September) [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/2/4], and third (Bali, Indonesia, 2-4 December) [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4] sessions.

The working group had before it the Executive Director's June report [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/3/Rev.1] on perspectives on needs and gaps to be taken into account in the development of the intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building, which presented a set of issues to be addressed; the report of meetings of the working group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (5 and 19 May and 2 June) [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/2] to consider the Committee's contribution to the intergovernmental working group; outcomes of the expert consultation (Geneva, 17-18 June) and civil society consultation (Nairobi, 21-22 June) [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/4]; the report of the civil society consultation [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/CS/1/2]; an inventory of UNEP capacity-building and technology support activities [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/2/3]; and a compilation of proposals by Governments [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/2].

The working group also considered notes by the Executive Director on an overview of UNEP activities relating to technology support and capacity-building in the fields of technology, industry and economics [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/INF/2] and environmental law [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/INF/3]; and secretariat notes on the submission by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to the working group [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/2/INF/1], the strategic approach to enhance capacity-building prepared by GEF and approved by the GEF Council in 2003 [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/INF/4], and the Chair's summary of a meeting hosted by UNEP and the Republic of Korea on

capacity-building for integrated policy design and implementation for sustainable development (Jeju, Republic of Korea, 27-28 March) [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/1/INF/5].

The Chair of the working group proposed a draft framework for the plan [UNEP/IEG/IGSP/2/2] based on the elements contained in the Executive Director's February paper (see p. 1039), the discussions at the working group's first session and inputs from related processes, including the consultations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and of experts and civil society held in June (see above).

Bali Strategic Plan. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building [UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 & Corr.1], adopted by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, at its third session on 4 December, was intended as an intergovernmentally agreed approach to strengthen technology support and capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including reinforcing UNEP's role and building on areas where it had comparative advantage and expertise. Its objectives were to: strengthen the capacity of Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition; provide systematic, targeted, short- and long-term measures for technology support and capacity-building; ensure the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the negotiations on multilateral environmental agreements; ensure that principles of transparency and accountability were integrated in all activities; integrate gender-mainstreaming strategies and education and training for women in formulating relevant policies, and promote women's participation in environmental decision-making; enable collaboration with stakeholders and provide a basis for a comprehensive approach to developing partnerships; emphasize the identification and dissemination of best practices and the fostering of entrepreneurship and partnerships; enhance UNEP's delivery of technology support and capacity-building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition; strengthen cooperation among UNEP, multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, and other bodies engaged in environmental capacity-building, including UNDP and GEF; and promote, facilitate and finance access to and support of environmentally sound technologies and know-how, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The Plan included measures for implementation at the national, regional and global levels, in-

cluding the strengthening of regional UNEP offices to facilitate its effective support. It included a list of cross-cutting issues and thematic areas to be addressed, among which were the strengthening of national and regional environmental or environment-related institutions; development of national environmental law; and strengthening civil society and private sector cooperation. The Plan also supported South-South cooperation and the implementation of the outcomes of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening UNEP's scientific base (see below). It provided for the reporting of its implementation to GC/GMEF and outlined coordination and evaluation mechanisms. A strategic partnership between UNEP and GEF would be developed to further the goals of the plan and submitted to GC/GMEF for adoption. Activities under the plan would be implemented through the Environmental Fund and resources mobilized from other sources, including public-private partnerships.

UNEP activities

A March policy statement of the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VII/7] outlined UNEP's efforts with regard to the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821]; strengthening its work in environmental assessment and early warning; enabling countries to meet their commitments made at the 2000 Millennium Summit [YUN 2000, p. 47] and the World Summit; and international environmental governance. The challenge before the eighth (2004) GC/GMEF special session was to provide a substantive environmental perspective on the implementation of the environmental pillar of sustainable development in the fields of water, sanitation and human settlements; sustain momentum of implementation required to meet the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration [ibid., p. 49] and World Summit; and implement measures related to international environmental governance.

Monitoring and assessment

Responding to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1039] initiating a consultative process on strengthening UNEP's scientific base, also known as the Science Initiative, the Executive Director submitted to the Council a synthesis [UNEP/SI/IGC/2] of 122 substantive responses received as at 12 November 2003 from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and scientific institutions on the likely gaps and types of assessment needs with respect to the environment, how UNEP and other organizations were meeting those needs, and current options

for meeting any unfulfilled needs within UNEP's mandate. The synthesis report identified gaps and types of needs including: assessment of existing international intergovernmental challenges and of inter-linkages; scientific credibility, legitimacy and relevance in the assessment process; cost-effectiveness, cooperation and strengthening of existing institutions; and developing country participation and capacity-building. Options for meeting the needs within UNEP's mandate included strengthening UNEP cooperation with scientific institutions and academia, the operations of inter-agency cooperation mechanisms, and local and regional capacities for integrated environmental assessment and enhanced capacity-building, technology transfer and increased financial support.

On 26 January [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.3], the Executive Director updated his earlier synthesis report and in February [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF.8] submitted a draft report, prepared by consultants, analysing the additional questions regarding the strengthening of UNEP's scientific base posed by its secretariat.

Governing Council action. On 31 March [dec. SS.VIII/1, section II], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to evaluate the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation and report to GC/GMEF in 2005, at which time it would review also their implementation. It invited both developed and developing countries in a position to do so and other partners active in development to provide additional funding for implementing the conclusions and recommendations, in particular those related to participation by, capacity-building in and support to subglobal assessments in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Post-conflict assessments

In November [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.2], the Executive Director described progress by the UNEP Post-Conflict Assessment Unit in implementing the 2003 Governing Council decision on post-conflict assessment [YUN 2003, p. 1039] in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Serbia and Montenegro and the Sudan. In Afghanistan, the Unit was implementing a comprehensive capacity- and institution-building programme. It participated in a United Nations Development Group (UNDG)/World Bank assessment mission to Haiti, and, in Iraq, it conducted a desk study on the environment and organized six round tables to coordinate activities among key stakeholders. It was also the focal point for cross-cutting issues on the environment within the context of the joint United Nations/World

Bank mission to assess rehabilitation and transitional recovery needs in the Sudan. UNEP was developing a proposal to strengthen environmental administration in Liberia.

In support of the United Nations Compensation Commission, UNEP provided eight review reports of environmental studies by claimant countries. A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/20] contained additional information on UNEP's post-conflict assessment activities.

Support to Africa

In response to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1040], the Executive Director, in a November report on meeting substantial environmental challenges in Africa and other regions [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.7], stated that UNEP provided institutional support for the establishment of the interim secretariat of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) [YUN 2002, p. 1035], which targeted desertification, wetland conservation, invasive alien species, coastal management, global warming, transboundary conservation areas, environmental governance and financing. It also initiated the implementation phase of the capacity-building programme of the Action Plan for the implementation of the NEPAD environment initiative.

UNEP continued to support the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), especially the organization of its tenth regular session (Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 26-30 June), which provided policy guidance on the environment in Africa. UNEP gave support to the Bureau of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), which was part of the NEPAD environment initiative, the consultative processes of its Technical Advisory Committee and the organization of AMCOW's fourth ordinary session (Kampala, Uganda, 4-6 November). Through a memorandum of understanding signed between UNEP and Kenya's National Environmental Management Authority, support was given to the establishment of the NEPAD office in Kenya, in the coordination of coastal and marine sub-theme of the NEPAD environment initiative.

UNEP conducted several reviews and assessments of land-based sources of pollution and their impacts on the physical environment and human lives. It also provided support to Africa for the implementation of a number of multilateral environmental agreements and participation in international forums. It supported sectoral and cross-cutting activities in Africa including in the areas of trade and environment; cleaner production and sustainable consumption; environmental law; post-conflict efforts, including a desk

study on Liberia; integrated water resources management; the ecosystem approach to dryland management; and the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership.

Pursuant to another 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1040], the Executive Director's report included information on poverty and the environment in Africa. UNEP developed a four-year project aimed at increasing African countries' capacities to mainstream environmental and ecosystem considerations in their development plans, thereby creating an enabling environment for poverty eradication. The project was initiated in Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, and was scheduled to begin in Mali and Mauritania in 2005. UNEP developed a global partnership on the issue in cooperation with the UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative. At the national level, UNEP also worked with UNDP country offices and with the World Bank's ongoing country assessment strategies and the establishment of its poverty reduction credits.

In 2004, 20 UNEP/GEF projects devoted exclusively to Africa were approved, with total funding of \$64.6 million, including \$20.4 million in GEF resources. UNEP continued to support African countries in the development of the Action Plan for implementation of the NEPAD environment initiative through a GEF-funded medium-sized project.

Water policy and strategy

UNEP's updated water policy and strategy, whose overall goals were: improved assessment and awareness of environmental water issues, environmental management of basins, coastal and marine waters and cooperation and coordination between UNEP and others in the international water sector, was submitted by the Executive Director in a November report [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5], pursuant to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1041]. The updated policy and strategy also included a revitalized environmentally sound management of inland waters programme, developed in 1985 [YUN 1985, p. 814], to be known as the Programme for the Environmentally Sound Management of Freshwater (EMWA). The water policy and strategy was designed to yield results in, among other areas, global and regional assessments of the state of major priority aquatic ecosystems, with a view to developing appropriate policy responses, and strengthened integrated management of internationally shared basins, marine and coastal areas, using multi-sectoral approaches. The Governing Council would conduct regular reviews to gauge progress in the stated objectives under the three key com-

ponents of the policy and strategy: assessment, management and coordination.

A November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/25] presented the key policy issues, developments and processes that were taken into account in updating the water policy and strategy, and EMWA. The Council was to review the policy and strategy in 2005.

The atmosphere

UNEP was engaged in a number of national-level activities to reduce the vulnerability of least developed countries and small island developing States to climate change. Under the Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change, a global initiative of UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (see p. 1057) for advancing scientific understanding of climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation options in developing countries, 24 regional studies were under way in 46 developing countries. Other projects included integrating vulnerability and adaptation to climate change into sustainable development planning in Southern and Eastern Africa.

Under its Energy Programme, UNEP addressed the environmental consequences of energy production and use, including global climate change and local air pollution, focusing on promoting policies that placed energy and transport within a broader sustainable development context.

Environment and sustainable development

In response to a 2003 Governing Council decision on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) [YUN 2003, p. 1042], a report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/6] outlined modalities to: strengthen the institutional capacity of SIDS; increase funding for UNEP's SIDS-related activities during the 2004-2005 biennium; and provide focused support for the development and execution of partnership initiatives. The modalities, which were framed within the context of UNEP's substantive programmes and projects consisted of, among other things, the organization of thematic workshops, the elaboration and dissemination of technical papers and the provision of technical assistance.

On 31 March [dec. SS.VIII/2], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to prepare a report on the outcome of the upcoming international meeting (Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005) for a ten-year review of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [YUN

1994, p. 783] (see p. 858) for review in 2005 in the context of UNEP's mandate.

In response to the decision, the Executive Director in November, submitted a preliminary report [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.6] describing UNEP's mandate for SIDS-related activities, background on the international meeting, and UNEP's contributions. An updated report would be issued following the meeting's conclusion.

Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)

Pursuant to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1043], a December report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/5] provided an overview of UNEP activities to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements (see p. 1044); poverty, gender and the environment; technology support and capacity-building (see p. 1039); regional support; international environmental governance (see p. 1038); and other cross-cutting and thematic areas.

In other areas, a November report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.7] included information on UNEP's role in strengthening regional activities and cooperation in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) region (Western and Central Asia). The report described UNEP's activities in the areas identified for cooperation with ECO in a memorandum of understanding signed between the two organizations on 18 August, namely, environmentally sound and renewable energy services and resources; capacity-building services in environmental law, environmental education and ecotourism; and environmental assessment services.

Also in November [UNEP/GC.23/INF/23], the Executive Director reported on the implementation of a 2003 Governing Council decision on environment and cultural diversity [YUN 2003, p. 1043]. The report contained the results of the survey on the subject, which was undertaken in cooperation with UNESCO and the secretariat of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [YUN 1992, p. 638]. Among the objectives of the survey were to understand if safeguarding cultural diversity was a prerequisite to preserving the environment, and to reveal the level of diversity and interlinkages between the environment and culture and their role in programmes and activities. The survey concluded that it was becoming clear that the link between cultural and biological diversity was often an inextricable one, and that it was necessary to think of preserving the world's biological and cultural diversity as an

integrated goal. Fostering a convergence of perspectives required strengthening the links among various fields of research and applied work involved in diversity conservation. As a way forward, the report identified possible short-term activities, including organizing a workshop on cultural, environmental and social impact assessments and regional workshops on ethics, customs and traditions on environmental protection. However, in the longer term, a deeper analysis in the form of a comprehensive desk study in collaboration with other agencies, in particular UNESCO and CBD, could highlight concrete, implementable steps to demonstrate the interlinkages between environment and cultural diversity, and would culminate in a final report. Annexed to the report were a legal analysis of interlinkages between environment and cultural diversity and the results of a questionnaire on women, cultural diversity and sustainable development distributed at the first Global Women's Assembly on Environment in October (see p. 1048).

CEB consideration. The United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), in its annual overview report for 2003 [E/2004/67], stated that, in follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], it had, through its High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), established or strengthened collaborative arrangements in the areas of freshwater, energy, water and sanitation, oceans and coastal areas, and patterns of consumption and production. Specifically, UN-Water, an informal arrangement for coordinating the activities of senior managers of UN water programmes, was confirmed as the inter-agency mechanism for follow-up on the Summit's water-related decisions and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concerning freshwater [YUN 2000, p. 52]. UN-Water's terms of reference and modalities of work were to include an inter-agency plan for addressing water and sanitation issues and mechanisms for interacting with non-UN system stakeholders. CEB established the Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (UN-Oceans) to ensure information-sharing and enhance coherence in the system's policies and activities relating to oceans and coastal areas. HLCP, at its eighth session (Florence, Italy, 15-17 September) [CEB/2004/7], noted the adoption of UN-Water's terms of reference.

Jeju Initiative

GC/GMEF, at its eighth special session [A/59/25] (see p. 1036), considered follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821]: UNEP's contribution to the

twelfth (2004) session of the Commission on Sustainable Development [E/2004/29] (see p. 827) on the theme of the environmental dimensions of water, sanitation and human settlements. The theme was addressed through the focus areas of integrated ecosystems approaches by 2005; water and sanitation; and water health and poverty. The Chair's summary of the consultations—the Jeju Initiative—identified key environmental dimensions and concepts for addressing the functions and needs of the natural environment, particularly water, in local, national and international efforts to achieve the water-related targets stemming from the 2000 Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49] and the World Summit, and examples of partnerships and best practices. The Initiative emphasized the need for the international community and Governments to make substantive progress in implementing the integrated water resource management target to develop integrated water resources management by 2005, the need for an environmentally sound approach to the Summit's target of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; and the need to address water and sanitation issues in poverty reduction efforts. It also addressed the role of UNEP and other UN agencies.

While there was widespread agreement on many of the points contained in the Initiative, there was no consensus on a number of other issues. Nevertheless, the ministers and other delegation heads agreed that the Initiative should be transmitted to the Commission as UNEP's contribution to its 2004 session, at which it would review progress on the implementation of the goals, targets and commitments on freshwater, sanitation and human settlements in Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 672]; the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly in resolution S/19-2 [YUN 1997, p. 792]; and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit [YUN 2002, p. 821].

As background papers for the ministerial consultations, GC/GMEF had before it summaries submitted by Governments on innovative practices [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/17]; a discussion paper by the Executive Director on water, sanitation and human settlements [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/4]; and a January note [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/4] on financing wastewater and treatment in relation to the MDGs, and the Summit's water and sanitation targets.

Policy and advisory services

Trade and the environment

A November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/5] contained information on UNEP's activities in trade and the environment. With the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNEP convened the Capacity-building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development Training Workshop on Integrated Assessment for African Countries (Nairobi, Kenya, 19-20 July). UNEP also convened national stakeholders workshops to launch a pilot project on integrated assessment and planning for sustainable development (Kampala, Uganda, 7-8 September) and a pilot project on integrated assessment and planning to analyse the impacts of trade policy on the Colombian agriculture sector, with special emphasis on biodiversity and poverty reduction. The note also discussed UNEP's activities with respect to the use of environmental impact assessments, economic instruments and natural resource accounting, which included the convening, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division, of a meeting on integrated environmental and economic accounting (Copenhagen, Denmark, 20-21 September).

Institution-building

In November [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.3], the Executive Director reported on the implementation of a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1044] on enhancing the application of principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 670], which related to public awareness and access to information held by public authorities, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. UNEP carried out consultations with Governments and relevant civil society organizations to determine the value of initiating an intergovernmental process for preparing global guidelines on the application of Principle 10. Responses received so far favoured the development of a "soft-law" international instrument, in the form of global guidelines. UNEP would continue to work with other organizations to enhance implementation of the Principle, preparing and disseminating information to raise awareness on the issue.

Coordination and cooperation

Business and industry

As requested by the Governing Council in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1044], the Executive Director, in a November note [UNEP/GC.23/INF/5], reported

on the development of guidelines on cooperation between UNEP and the business sector. Taking into account the proposed elements contributed by Governments, and based on the Secretary-General's 2000 Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Community, the "Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and Business" were finalized in March and were appended to the Executive Director's note. The Guidelines were based on UNEP's ongoing work with business and industry and aimed to ensure greater private sector commitment to a new culture of environmental accountability and responsibility.

UNEP continued working with individual business entities and business associations to create greater environmental and social responsibility, mainly through its annual consultative meeting with industry associations. Other UNEP activities aimed at engaging businesses and industries included strengthening voluntary initiatives. Its Finance Initiative, involving more than 270 banks and insurance companies, was taking the lead in monitoring follow-up to undertakings made by major brokerage firms on corporate responsibility and sustainability at the first summit of leaders of the Global Compact (New York, 24 June), which was launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 989] to engage the business community in advancing basic values in human rights, labour and the environment. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), a multi-stakeholder process and independent institution, was launched in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1038] to develop and disseminate globally applicable sustainable reporting guidelines. With UNEP's support, the GRI secretariat was gathering feedback from all regions, and assessing and making amendments to the GRI guidelines, originally released in 2002 [ibid.], with a view to releasing version 3 in 2006.

Environmental emergencies

In response to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1045], the Executive Director, in November [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.2], reported on environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation. UNEP continued to strengthen its capacity to address natural disasters with significant environmental impacts, including by enhancing the global network of environment and disaster experts that supported its response activities. It was assisted in those efforts by the Environmental Emergencies Partnership, a UNEP/ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) global mechanism for reducing the frequency and severity of environmental emergencies, through

the strengthening of collaboration and information-sharing among environmental emergency stakeholders. UNEP's capacity-building and training activities included the development, in May, of profiles of institutions working on disaster and environmental risk reduction in Africa and a March publication on environmental and flood management, targeting children. To strengthen capacities and promote regional perspectives in disaster reduction and management, UNEP organized a workshop (Lesotho, February) on national legislation and institutions for environmental disaster in selected countries in Southern Africa.

Among other activities, UNEP, as requested by the Governing Council in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1045], put in place a process for reviewing the 2001 Strategic Framework on Environmental Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Assessment, Mitigation and Response [YUN 2001, p. 950]. With support from Norway, and in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNEP was implementing a project on strengthening capacities for integration of environmental dimensions in the management of refugee settlements and flows in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone. It was also implementing, in cooperation with a number of African organizations and institutions, a project to promote the harnessing, use and application of indigenous knowledge in environmental conservation and coping mechanisms for flood and drought disasters in Kenya, South Africa, Swaziland, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

In 2004, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit coordinated responses to the environmental aspects of emergencies resulting from the 26 December Indian Ocean earthquake and subsequent tsunami (see p. 952) in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka (see p. 914); the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan (see p. 942); hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne in the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Haiti; uranium mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and the outbreak of neurological disease in Tanzania.

Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), a joint programme of UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, established in 1991 [YUN 1991, p. 505] to help solve global environmental problems, was the designated financial mechanism for the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 683] (see p. 1053), the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [ibid., p. 681] (see p. 1051), and the 1994 United Nations Conven-

tion to Combat Desertification [YUN 1994, p. 944] (see p. 1055), and served as the interim financial mechanism for the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) [YUN 2001, p. 971] (see p. 1066), pending that Convention's entry into force.

At year's end, the cumulative UNEP/GEF work programme was financed to \$865 million, including \$444 million in GEF resources, involving activities in 153 countries. Through GEF enabling activities related to biodiversity, climate change, POPs, and capacity-building needs assessment for global environmental management, UNEP assisted 138 countries to meet their obligations to the global environmental conventions and to build capacity to implement them.

Fifty-three new UNEP/GEF initiatives were approved in 2004, with funding of \$258 million, including \$80 million in GEF grant financing.

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/24] contained information on the activities of UNEP as a GEF implementing agency.

Memorandums of understanding

In 2004, UNEP signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with: the Organizing Committee for the 2004 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, to collaborate on environmental awareness-raising during the games (Athens, Greece, 13-29 August and 17-28 September, respectively); the World Organization of the Scout Movement, to promote environmental activities among its members and support the implementation of UNEP's long-term (Tunza) strategy on the engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues [YUN 2002, p. 1040] (see below); the University of New South Wales (Sydney, Australia), to expand sustainability programmes in the Asia-Pacific region; the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), to cooperate in strengthening environmental management in the ECO region (Western and Central Asia); the European Commission, to strengthen cooperation to fight global threats to the environment more effectively; and the Barbados Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, to cooperate on the establishment of an association to develop, implement and monitor a license system to import and export ozone depleting substances in that country.

Participation of civil society

In December [UNEP/GC.23/INF/14], the Executive Director reported on the implementation of UNEP's Tunza strategy (2003-2008) for the engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues [YUN 2002, p. 1040], endorsed

by the Governing Council in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1046]. The report described activities in the four focus areas of information exchange, awareness-building, youth in decision-making processes and capacity-building. UNEP launched a new illustrated environmental series for children, a new website for children and youth and a video encouraging children to protect themselves better from ozone-related problems. A version of the African Environment Outlook (AEO) was being prepared by leaders of African youth organizations in collaboration with UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment. UNEP's network for children and youth organizations continued to grow, with over 10,000 organizations in over 150 countries regularly receiving environmental information from UNEP, including electronic networks for information sharing with children and youth organizations. Despite an annual contribution of 1 million euros by the German-based chemical and health-care company, Bayer AG, full implementation of the Tunza strategy was still hampered by inadequate financial resources.

The 2004 Tunza International Children's Conference (New London, Connecticut, United States, 19-23 July) agreed to a set of commitments and challenges for protecting the environment. Annexed to a December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/27], was a statement by the Tunza Youth Advisory Council to the 2005 GC/GMEF session, proposing key priorities for action to meet the goals of the 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit [YUN 2000, p. 47] and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821].

Another December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/28] contained a report on activities to implement UNEP's long-term strategy on sport and the environment, endorsed by the Governing Council in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1046]. Those activities included participation in the Secretary-General's initiative on sport, including the work of his Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace [YUN 2003, p. 1111], efforts to commemorate the International Year for Sport and Physical Education (2005), proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 58/5 [ibid.] and UNEP's efforts to strengthen its work with sports organizations. UNEP, in cooperation with the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry and the sporting goods industry in Pakistan, organized the 2004 Global Forum for Sport and the Environment (Lahore, Pakistan, 25-26 November), which adopted the Lahore/Sialkot Declaration on Corporate Environmental Responsibility.

The main challenge for the full implementation of the strategy was the urgent need to raise

the required financial resources. Given the lack of Government support, UNEP was increasingly looking to the private sector to provide those resources. The report encouraged Governments to engage sport federations and associations to promote environmental awareness and action, and to use the opportunity of the International Year for Sport and Physical Education (2005) to promote the use of sport for the enhancement of the sustainable development agenda and achieving the internationally agreed goals of the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49].

The Fifth Global Civil Society Forum (Jeju, Republic of Korea, 27-28 March) [UNEP/GCS/5/1] considered environmental issues on the Korean peninsula and in North-East Asia, Asia and the Pacific and West Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, and Europe and North America. It discussed the global approach to issues raised by the regions and heard civil society statements [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/10 & Add.1]. The Forum's conclusions and recommendations were contained in the Jeju statement adopted by the eighth (2004) GC/GMEF special session (see p. 1044).

Four earlier Global Civil Society Forums were held in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 [UNEP/GCS/4/2].

Gender and the environment

Consultative seminar. UNEP's Division of Policy Development and Law convened a consultative seminar (Nairobi, Kenya, 25-26 February) [UNEP/DPDL/CSGE/1] to deal with substantive and strategic challenges regarding gender and environment. Seminar working groups made recommendations on women, poverty and the environment; the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170], adopted by the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women [ibid., p. 1169], and the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]; the establishment of a mentoring programme on women and youth; better incorporation of gender in UNEP's work; biodiversity, water and indigenous knowledge at the core of sustainable and equitable development; and planning the upcoming UNEP Global Women's Assembly on Environment (see p. 1048). The recommendations called for an audit of UNEP's gender mainstreaming strategy; the establishment of a gender task force and a mechanism for monitoring gender mainstreaming; and a global review of indigenous knowledge, biodiversity and water as they related to women and of the impact of water privatization policies on communities and on women.

Global Women's Assembly. The first Global Women's Assembly on Environment: women as

the voice for the environment (WAVE) (Nairobi, 10-13 October) [UNEP/DPDL/WAVE/1], discussed gender-sensitive policies on sustainable livelihoods in the context of world conflict and peace; the development of a draft manifesto and action plan on women and the environment (see below); women's rights, environment, poverty and health; female leadership and starting a mentorship programme; and recommendations by women ministers for the environment. The manifesto, adopted by the Assembly and annexed to its report, called for urgent action by all stakeholders, in particular the UN system, to achieve sustainable development. Through their global partnership, Assembly participants would use and promote non-violent approaches, eliminate destructive practices and build a sustainable, just and valuable life for all current and future generations. The manifesto contained recommendations for action on the issues discussed during the Assembly (see above), as well as on gender issues with regard to global environmental change and urban challenges and the environment. Further recommendations dealt with the implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821]; the 10-year review in 2005 of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170]; the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 [YUN 1979, p. 895]; and the MDGs. The manifesto also included a number of project ideas, corresponding to its recommendations, for implementation by UNEP.

General Assembly issues

In January [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/7], the Executive Director provided information on the issues arising from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in 2003 that called for action by, or were of relevance to, UNEP.

Global Environment Outlook Yearbook

In response to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1039], a December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/2] contained UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook (GEO), *GEO Yearbook 2004/5*, which presented a global and regional overview of the state of the environment, including the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster of 26 December (see p. 952); gender and the environment (see p. 1047); changes in ocean salinity; environmental indicators; and emerging infectious diseases. The *GEO Yearbook 2004/5* would be published in 2005. Future yearbooks

would be dated according to the years in which they were published.

UNEP secretariat

OIOS audit and inspection services

The tenth annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), transmitted by the Secretary-General in October [A/59/359] (see p. 1368), included the results of an audit of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. The audit showed that, while the Division had improved its handling of administrative matters, it lacked basic data to establish an overall picture of its advisory bodies and how they contributed to its work. The mandate and rationale for the current organizational structure were still unclear and in need of review. UNEP needed a mechanism to provide an overview of the mandates and missions of its divisions, and to strengthen the administrative arrangements for its Nairobi-based divisions in management information, budget control and asset management.

Administrative and budgetary matters

Environment Fund

A February note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/9] contained information on the execution of UNEP's 2002-2003 biennial budget, showing total projected income for the biennium, including from the UN regular budget, the Environment Fund, trust funds, trust fund support and earmarked contributions, amounting to \$334.20 million and expenditures totalling \$237.15 million. The balance in the funds as at 31 December 2003 was projected at \$97.05 million.

Pursuant to 2003 Governing Council decisions on UNEP's 2004-2005 biennial programme and support budget [YUN 2003, p. 1047] and regional implementation of UNEP's programme of work [ibid., p. 1043], a report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/6] provided information on progress in the development of preliminary data and a format for the regional annexes of UNEP's 2006-2007 programme of work based on the 2004-2005 programme of work of subprogramme 1 of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment. It provided a synopsis by region of the area of work of the Division and a format for presenting the resource plan. The annex indicating the Environment Fund resources allocated and the percentage to be implemented at the regional level per subprogramme, was to be included as part of the work programme for the 2006-2007 biennium, and starting from that biennium, the syn-

opsis by region and by division would be submitted to the GC/GMEF sessions as a separate document.

The Governing Council, on 31 March [dec. SS.VIII/3], reiterated its 2003 request [YUN 2003, p. 1047] to the Executive Director to include in the work programme, beginning with the 2006-2007 biennium, regional annexes identifying the percentage of the Environment Fund budget from each division to be implemented at the regional level and to present that information for a decision in 2005. The UNEP secretariat should prepare, as a separate document, a synopsis by region of the area of work of each division for presentation to the Council at its regular sessions, starting from the 2006-2007 biennium.

Responding to the Council's decision, the Executive Director submitted the requested regional synopses in a November note [UNEP/GC.23/INF/9].

Board of Auditors report

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/7] contained the report of the Board of Auditors, which included the financial report and audited financial statements for the 2002-2003 biennium [A/59/5/Add.6]. UNEP's financial statements covered the major funds, including the Environment Fund, general trust funds, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (see p. 1052), Technical Cooperation Trust Funds and other trust funds. The Environment Fund reported a total income of \$98.79 million against expenditures of \$109.97 million, showing a net shortfall of \$11.18 million (11 per cent), as compared with a net shortfall of income over expenditures of \$11.23 million in 2000-2001. The general trust funds showed a shortfall of income relative to expenditure of \$8.59 million, compared to a net excess of \$24.48 million for 2000-2001. The Multilateral Fund reported a net excess of income over expenditures of \$16.15 million, compared with a net shortfall of income relative to expenditures of \$32.24 million for 2000-2001.

The Board made recommendations for establishing and reviewing obligations in accordance with UN regulations; recovering outstanding advances paid to staff members and "other persons"; enforcing agreement in respect of the timely liquidation of advances to implementing agencies; and disclosing, in the notes to the financial statements, the amount of non-expendable property "pending write-off".

Strengthening UNEP's financing

In February [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5], the Executive Director reported on measures taken to strengthen UNEP's financing, including implementation of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, a pilot phase of which began in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1048]. The pilot phase revealed a significant widening of the base for voluntary contributions, with 118 countries having pledged or contributed to the Environment Fund in 2003, compared to the annual average of 74 countries, and an increase in payments by countries to the Fund. By the end of 2003, over 70 Governments had pledged or paid higher contributions than in the previous year, and over 50 had increased budget allocations for contributions to UNEP. Taking into account the feedback from Governments during the pilot phase, UNEP developed a new indicative scale for the 2004-2005 biennium, which was supported by 61 countries as at the end of 2003, 43 of which had paid or pledged amounts for 2004, the highest number ever before the start of the calendar year to which the pledges related. The report also discussed the more efficient and effective use of available resources and the possibility of utilizing external management review mechanisms; a strong focus on agreed UNEP priorities and ongoing review of previous priorities; and greater mobilization of resources from the private sector and other major groups.

Data on the implementation of the 2003 pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions and the new 2004-2005 scale were submitted by the Executive Director in a March note [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/12].

On 31 March [dec. SS.VIII/1, section IV], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue efforts to increase funding from all sources for strengthening UNEP's financial base and to implement its 2002 decision [YUN 2002, p. 1032] with respect to the recommendations on financing the Programme, including through resources approved for UNEP by the General Assembly from the UN regular budget. The Council decided to review all aspects of the strengthening of UNEP's financing in 2005 and requested the Executive Director to report thereon.

The General Assembly, in resolution 59/226 (see p. 1037) of 23 December, welcomed the progress made in strengthening UNEP's role and financial situation, including the significant broadening of its donor base and increasing total contributions to the Environmental Fund, and which would be reviewed by the Governing Council in 2005.

International conventions and mechanisms

MEAs

A February report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5] discussed issues concerning multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), whose implementation was supported through a significant proportion of UNEP activities. UNEP was striving to enhance complementarity and communication between conventions at the national level in capacity-building and reporting, among other areas. It continued to identify programmatic synergies between the conventions and improve cooperation between convention secretariats and respective UNEP programmes. UNEP, through its World Conservation Monitoring Centre, was facilitating pilot projects in Ghana, Indonesia, Panama and Seychelles to test information management and harmonization concepts in the context of national reporting to global biodiversity-related conventions, including the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 683] (see p. 1053); the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the 1979 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. UNEP was launching a major project on achieving synergies between conventions in Africa, and was organizing a series of regional and subregional workshops to promote the coordinated national implementation of the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420] (see p. 1066), the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade [YUN 1998, p. 997] (see p. 1063) and the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants [YUN 2001, p. 971] (see p. 1066).

On 31 March [dec. SS.VIII/1, section V] the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue to promote the implementation of the Council's recommendations with respect to coordination between and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements, in pursuance of a 2002 Council decision on international environmental governance [YUN 2002, p. 1032], taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties to those conventions.

A November report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.4] contained information on UNEP support for MEAs and a progress report on

the implementation of a 2002 Governing Council decision on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements [YUN 2002, p. 1042]. The tenth meeting of MEA secretariats (Nairobi, Kenya, 8-9 March) suggested that systematic contact between UNEP and the MEA secretariats be established, as well as a UNEP focus areas on MEA-related issues. UNEP should provide political and practical support to MEAs; strengthen regional delivery through capacity-building and training; and improve coherence among MEAs. As a follow-up to the meeting, UNEP established an interdivisional task force to coordinate the work of all UNEP divisions in support of MEAs, and was asked to help develop a database to monitor the implementation of decisions of conferences of the parties.

The report also discussed an issue-based modular approach project for implementing biodiversity-related MEAs decisions at the national level; efforts to harmonize national reporting; the results of an expert workshop on promoting cooperation and synergy between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (Vilm, Germany, 21-24 April); coordinated national implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; and the OzonAction Programme, established by the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition improve their ability to comply with the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer [YUN 1987, p. 686] of the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804] (see p. 1052). The report also dealt with issues related to biodiversity and biosafety among others.

The 2002 Guidelines on Compliance and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements [YUN 2002, p. 1042] were translated into all official UN languages and disseminated to Governments and international organizations, MEA conferences of parties and other stakeholders. UNEP developed a manual for implementing the guidelines, which was tested in regional workshops held in 2003 and 2004. The report described ongoing activities for the implementation of the guidelines and the development of national laws for the implementation of the Rio conventions taking into account poverty reduction (Convention on Biological Diversity, the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [YUN 1992, p. 681], the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa [YUN 1994, p. 944]).

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolutions 58/243 [YUN 2003, p. 1049], 58/242 [ibid., p. 1053] and 58/212 [ibid., p. 1052], the Secretary-General, by an August note [A/59/197], transmitted reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see below), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (see p. 1055), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1053), respectively. The note also contained a joint submission on cooperative activities of the three secretariats.

Climate change convention

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was opened for signature in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 681] and entered into force in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 938], stood at 188 States and the European Community (EC). During the year, the Convention was acceded to by Turkey.

At year's end, 132 States and the EC were parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention [YUN 1997, p. 1048]. During the year, seven States ratified the Protocol and six acceded to it.

Conference of Parties

The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6-18 December) [FCCC/CP/2004/10 & Add.1-2] adopted decisions on the Buenos Aires programme of work on measures dealing with adaptation and response to climate change, and simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM) (see below). Other decisions related to: capacity-building for developing countries not included in the Convention's annex I list of industrialized countries and countries with economies in transition; the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group; implementation of the global observing system for climate; the development and transfer of technology; the status of, and ways to enhance, implementation of the New Delhi work programme, adopted in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1042], on article 6 of the Convention relating to education, training and public awareness; the continuation of pilot phase activities implemented jointly by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation; and issues related to the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from UNFCCC parties included in an-

nex I and the implementation of article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. The Conference adopted decisions on a standard electronic format for reporting emission reduction units under the Protocol; the incorporation of modalities and procedures for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the CDM and measures to facilitate their implementation; good practice guidance for land use, land-use change and forestry activities under the Protocol's article 3; and issues relating to registry systems under article 7. Further decisions dealt with the Convention's financial mechanism; the assessment of funding to assist developing countries in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention, a report which [FCCC/SBI/2004/18] was prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with GEF; and other administrative and financial matters.

In October, the CDM Executive Board issued its third annual report [FCCC/CP/2004/2 & Add.1], covering the period from November 2003 to December 2004. At its tenth session, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on guidance relating to CDM.

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) [FCCC/SBSTA/2004/6 & Add.1, 2] and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) [FCCC/SBI/2004/10] held their twentieth sessions (Bonn, Germany, 16-25 June). SBSTA [FCCC/SBSTA/2004/13 & Corr.1] and SBI [FCCC/SBI/2004/19] also held their twenty-first sessions in 2004 (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6-14 December).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 75] the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/59/483/Add.4], adopted **resolution 59/234** without vote [agenda item 85(d)].

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002 and 58/243 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

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

Recalling further the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, and the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003,

Noting the review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

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

Noting that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

Noting also that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and twenty-eight ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

Noting further the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

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

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

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

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

3. *Notes also* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol welcome its ratification by the Russian Federation, which satisfies the requirements for the Kyoto Protocol to enter into force;

4. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to continue their preparations for its entry into force;

5. *Notes with interest* the preparations undertaken for the implementation of the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

6. *Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session, and calls for their implementation;

7. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary

bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

8. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

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

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

Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

As at 31 December, 188 States and the EC were parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804], which entered into force in 1988 [YUN 1998, p. 810]. In 2004, Afghanistan and Bhutan acceded to the Convention and to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which was adopted in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 686], numbered 187 States and the EC; to the 1990 Amendment to the Protocol, 174 and the EC; to the 1992 Amendment, 163 and the EC; to the 1997 Amendment, 123 and the EC; and to the 1999 Amendment, 85 and the EC.

The first Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (Montreal, Canada, 24-26 March) [UNEP/OzL.Pro.ExMP/1/3], addressed unresolved issues related to methyl bromide [YUN 2003, p. 1050] and adopted a double-cap concept, which distinguished between use and production for critical use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2005. It established an ad hoc working group to review the working procedures and terms of reference of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, and adopted other decisions relating to reductions in and accelerated phase-out of methyl bromide by parties operating under article 5 of the Protocol (developing countries) and conditions for granting and reporting critical-use exemptions.

The Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties (Montreal, Canada, 22-26 November) [UNEP/OzL.Pro.16/17] adopted decisions on: critical use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2005 and 2006; a review of the working procedures and terms of refer-

ence of, and financial assistance to, the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee; the adoption of an accounting framework; trade in products and commodities treated with methyl bromide; technical and financial support relating to alternatives and flexibility in their use; and reporting of information on quarantine and pre-shipment uses of the substance and coordination among UN bodies on such uses. Other decisions dealt with essential use nominations for 2005 and 2006 of chloroflourocarbons (CFCs) for metered-dose inhalers; an assessment of the portion of the refrigeration service sector made up by chillers and the identification of incentives and impediments to the transition to non-CFC equipment; sources of carbon tetrachloride emissions and opportunities for reductions; a review of approved destruction technologies; the establishment of licensing systems; illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances; cooperation between the Protocol's secretariat and other related conventions and international organizations; terms of reference for a study on the 2006-2008 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; the 2004 evaluation and review of the Fund [UNEP/OzL.Pro.16/11]; and compliance issues. The Meeting declared 2007 the "International Year of the Ozone Layer" and decided to hold a second extraordinary meeting in 2005 to complete work on methyl bromide exemptions for 2006.

Convention on air pollution

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

The twenty-second session of the Executive Body for the Convention (Geneva, 29 November–3 December) [ECE/EB.AIR/83 & Add.1, 2] established task forces on heavy metals and hemispheric transport of air pollution, and an expert group on particulate matter. It adopted decisions on compliance and the implementation of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Eval-

uation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) monitoring strategy, which was approved by the Executive Body during the session, and its 2005 work plan.

Convention on Biological Diversity

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 638], which entered into force in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 210], remained at 187 States and the EC.

At year's end, 110 States and the EC were parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 973] and entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1051]. During the year, 20 States ratified the Protocol, 11 States acceded to it and Portugal accepted it.

The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9-20 and 27 February) [UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21] adopted the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, which were developed during the Fourth Open-Ended Workshop for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-8 May 2003). In a decision on the Strategic Plan for the Convention (2002-2010), adopted in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1045], the Meeting established an Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. It took action on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, also adopted in 2002 [ibid.], and on the Global Taxonomy Initiative. The Meeting adopted decisions on forest and mountain biological diversity; the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems, and dry and sub-humid lands; agricultural biological diversity; biological diversity and tourism; and biodiversity and climate change. Further decisions dealt with, the ecosystem approach for addressing the Convention objectives; issues related to article 8(j) of the Convention on traditional knowledge; implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization, adopted in 2002 [ibid.]; and administrative and budgetary and other matters. A ministerial segment of the meeting adopted the Kuala Lumpur Ministerial Declaration, which, among other things, reaffirmed the significant role of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and committed Governments to integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into socio-economic development.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting

of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23-27 February) [UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/1/15] adopted an action plan for building capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol; approved the transition of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House to the fully operational phase; and adopted procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Protocol and established the Compliance Committee. In a decision on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms, the meeting established an open-ended technical expert group on identification requirements of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing. It also established the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress and adopted a medium-term programme of work for the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol from the second to fifth meetings. Other decisions dealt with monitoring and reporting under the Protocol and administrative and budgetary matters.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/59/483/Add.6], adopted **resolution 59/236** without vote [agenda item 85 (f)].

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002 and 58/212 of 23 December 2003,

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

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Taking note of the entry into force of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the objectives of which are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the seventh meeting of the Con-

ference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 20 and on 27 February, and from 23 to 27 February 2004, respectively,

Expressing its deep appreciation also to the Government of Brazil for its offer to host the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in the first half of 2006,

Noting the efforts of the Government of France to organize a biodiversity-related conference in Paris in 2005,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

2. *Takes note also* of the outcome of the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcome of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and urges all parties to these respective agreements to implement their decisions;

3. *Notes* the recent progress made with respect to the achievement of the three objectives set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity;

4. *Notes also* the progress made at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in establishing an operational framework for the implementation of the Protocol, and reiterates that the effective implementation of the Protocol will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in capacity-building for biosafety;

5. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider doing so;

7. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

8. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

9. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;

10. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Coun-

tries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

11. *Stresses* the importance of harmonizing the reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions while respecting their independent legal status;

12. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention, including its Cartagena Protocol;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

Convention to combat desertification

As at 31 December, the total number of parties to the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD) [YUN 1994, p. 944], which entered into force in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 958], remained at 190 States and the EC.

Following a meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Bonn, Germany, 9 June) and consultations with the President of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), it was agreed that the third CRIC session, originally planned for 2004, would be held in Bonn in May 2005. The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties and the Committee on Science and Technology, a Conference subsidiary body, were scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2005.

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention (17 June), the Convention secretariat published "Preserving our common ground: UNCCD 10 years on", which included articles on the work of the Convention since its inception.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/59/483/Add.5], adopted **resolution 59/235** without vote [agenda item 85 (e)].

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/242 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Reaffirming that desertification constitutes a serious obstacle to sustainable development and contributes to food insecurity, famine and poverty, which are factors that can give rise to social, economic and political tensions, including forced migration and conflicts, and that the Convention is an important tool for poverty eradication,

Reaffirming also the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

Noting that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Emphasizing the need for the provision of adequate resources for the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, of the Global Environment Facility,

Stressing the need for further diversification of funding sources to address land degradation, in accordance with articles 20 and 21 of the Convention,

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

2. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, for meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and in this regard invites all Governments to take further measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to give due consideration to the role and place of the Convention in ongoing work in the context of the preparations for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2005, including the report of the Millennium Project;

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to strengthen the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;

5. *Takes note with interest* of ongoing efforts to diversify the availability of financial resources to support activities aimed at combating desertification and poverty;

6. *Invites* the donor community to increase its support to the Convention with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the issue of land degradation and desertification, which will contribute to the improvement of the sustainable development of drylands and the global environment;

7. *Invites* the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the secretariat of the Convention to finalize the draft memorandum of understanding in an expeditious way and to submit it, as mandated by Conference of the Parties decision 6/COP.6 of 3 September 2003, for the consideration of and adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;

8. *Takes note* of Conference of the Parties decision 23/COP.6 of 5 September 2003 on the programme and budget for the biennium 2004–2005, as an ongoing process of the Conference of the Parties to undertake a comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat, as

defined in article 23, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and looks forward to the review at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

9. *Urges* United Nations funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions, the donor countries and other development agencies to integrate actions in support of the Convention into their strategies to support the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

11. *Encourages* countries to undertake special initiatives in observance of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and, as they are able, to contribute to its preparatory process;

12. *Reiterates* the invitation to all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2004–2005, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for 1999 and/or the bienniums 2000–2001 and 2002–2003 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

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

14. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

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

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”.

Environmental activities

Follow-up to the Millennium Summit

The Secretary-General, in his August report [A/59/282 & Corr.1] on the implementation of the

Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], including progress toward the MDG on ensuring environmental sustainability, stated that protected areas had increased in all regions, but there was a loss of forest cover in some parts of the world, notably those with tropical forests. Energy use and per capita carbon dioxide had increased in developing countries but fell in the countries with economies in transition as industrial production declined in the 1990s. The use of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons had been almost eliminated globally. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol [YUN 1997, p. 1048] to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [YUN 1992, p. 681] (see p. 1051) still required ratification by either the Russian Federation or the United States in order to come into force, and implementation of the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa [YUN 1994, p. 944] was limited by a lack of financial resources. However, progress was made towards the full implementation of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 638], with the adoption of measurable indicators and specific goals to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 [YUN 2002, p. 1045] and the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1051]. As to deforestation and forest degradation (see p. 1057), nine international processes involving 150 countries encompassing 85 per cent of the world’s forests made progress in developing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

A November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/18 & Corr.1] contained information on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), a four-year international assessment launched in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 961] to evaluate the state of major ecosystems and their links with human well-being. During 2004, draft assessment reports underwent expert and Government reviews, and synthesis reports for specific audiences, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1053), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (see p. 1055), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, and for business and industry were being prepared. A plan for outreach activities would be implemented through the end of 2005. The southern African sub-global assessment (SAFMA) was largely completed, and the SAFMA integrated re-

port, the regional assessment report and the Gariep River basin report were published. MA partners were examining how best to make use of its findings, including in strengthening the ecosystem aspects of sub-global environmental research, assessment and management.

The atmosphere

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), at its twenty-second session (New Delhi, India, 9-11 November), discussed the scope, content and process for its Fourth Assessment Synthesis Report; Fourth Assessment Report products; outreach; and administrative matters. It approved a process for developing the Fourth Assessment Report, which was to be adopted and approved by IPCC in October 2007, and adopted a decision on its programme and budget for 2005 to 2008.

Report of Executive Director. Pursuant to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1056], the Executive Director, in November [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.4], gave a progress report on IPCC's work.

Terrestrial ecosystems

With an estimated 135 million people worldwide at risk of being displaced as a consequence of desertification, UNEP's strategy for dryland environmental management involved working with Governments and other stakeholders to implement, test and further develop an ecosystems approach, integrating the management of land, water and living resources and promoting conservation and sustainable use. UNEP was testing the approach through a drylands policy initiative aimed at restoring degraded drylands, preventing further desertification and promoting sustainable land management as an integral part of intergovernmental and national development policies, strategies and plans. UNEP and FAO began the Global Land Cover Network cooperative programme and were developing a Land Degradation Assessment for Drylands to provide a policy tool for the implementation of national and subregional action programmes of the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) [YUN 1994, p. 944] (see p. 1055). UNEP and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research completed the first two-year phase of the Desert Margins Programme and began a second phase. UNEP was also helping African countries to formulate re-

gional, subregional and national action plans and to develop environmental legislation and institutions to combat desertification.

Note by Executive Director. A February note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/3] contained a summary of progress made in the implementation of a joint project among China, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea, and the Asian Development Bank, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the UNCCD secretariat and UNEP to tackle the problem of dust and sandstorms in North-East Asia.

Deforestation and forest degradation

United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), at its fourth session (Geneva, 3-14 May) [E/2004/42 & Corr.1], adopted four resolutions and three decisions, which were brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The resolutions pertained to forest-related scientific knowledge [res. 4/1]; social and cultural aspects of forests [res. 4/2]; forest-related monitoring, assessment and reporting; criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management [res. 4/3]; and a process to facilitate the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests at UNFF's fifth (2005) session [res. 4/4]. The Forum encouraged member States, Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, bodies and processes to take action on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies [YUN 2003, p. 1062]. It decided to further consider in its work programme the issues of finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including the Expert Group's recommendations. The Forum took note of documents before it [dec. 4/3] (see below) and invited the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to participate in its deliberations [dec. 4/1].

The Forum had before it reports of the Secretary-General on traditional forest-related knowledge [E/CN.18/2004/7]; social and cultural aspects of forests [E/CN.18/2004/8]; forest-related scientific knowledge [E/CN.18/2004/9]; monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions [E/CN.18/2004/10]; and criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management [E/CN.18/2004/11]. The Secretary-General also provided information on the Forum's third multi-stakeholder dialogue [E/CN.18/2004/4 & Add.1-5], which took place during UNFF's fourth session; enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination to effectively promote

and implement Intergovernmental Panel/Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals and achieve sustainable forest management [E/CN.18/2004/13]; and the proposed UNFF strategic framework for the 2006-2007 biennium [E/CN.18/2004/14]. Secretariat notes described the activities and status of the UNFF secretariat during the 2002-2003 biennium, focusing on 2003 activities [E/CN.18/2004/3]; preparations for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All Types of Forests [E/CN.18/2004/6], established by Economic and Social Council decision 2003/299 [YUN 2003, p. 1058] (see below); and a proposal to facilitate the review of the effectiveness of international arrangement on forests, established by Council resolution 2000/35 [YUN 2000, p. 979], at the fifth (2005) UNFF session [E/CN.18/2004/12]. A further Secretariat note dealt with ASEAN's request to participate in UNFF's deliberations [E/CN.18/2004/16] (see p. 1057). Also before the Forum was the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2004 [E/CN.18/2004/INF/1]; a 5 March letter from Indonesia and Switzerland concerning the convening of an international meeting (Interlaken, Switzerland, 27-30 April) on forestry and national forest programmes in support of UNFF, known as the Interlaken Workshop [E/CN.18/2004/15]; and the reports of the Ad Hoc Expert Groups on Approaches and Mechanisms for Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting, and on Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology [YUN 2003, p. 1062].

On 20 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Forum's report on its fourth session and approved the provisional agenda for the fifth session (**decision 2004/235**).

Expert group meeting. The Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All Types of Forests (New York, 7-10 September) [E/CN.18/2005/2] addressed, under the tasks assigned to it by the Council in decision 2003/299 [YUN 2003, p. 1058], complementarities, gaps and duplications and a review of relevant experiences of existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests; other outcomes of the international arrangement on forests; and options for the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. In carrying out its tasks, the Group considered reports by member States and organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Forum secretariat, and the outcomes of UNFF sessions. It also considered an overview of catalysts and obstacles in imple-

menting IPF/IFF proposals for action [YUN 1997, p. 1057] and UNFF resolutions and decisions [E/CN.18/AC.3/2004/3], and background information to facilitate its deliberations [E/CN.18/AC.3/2004/2].

The Group recommended that the fifth (2005) UNFF session consider and build upon the discussions and exchange of views of the Group, as reflected in its report.

Marine ecosystems

Oceans and seas

The fifth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process in Oceans and the Law of the Sea (New York, 7-11 June) [A/59/122] (see p. 1333) discussed new sustainable uses of the oceans, including the conservation and management of the biological diversity of the seabed in areas beyond national jurisdiction. It proposed that the General Assembly welcome the establishment of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (UN-Oceans), a new inter-agency coordination mechanism (see p. 1044), and urge the close and continuous involvement in the Network of all UN programmes, funds, specialized agencies and organizations, which the Assembly did, in section XV of **resolution 59/24** of 17 November (see p. 1340).

Global waters assessment

The Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), inaugurated in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 982] to assess international waters and causes of environmental problems in 66 water regions, focusing on the aquatic environment in transboundary waters, published a number of regional assessment reports in 2004, including reports on environmental conditions of international waters in three regions of South America and on Lake Chad in Africa. Other GIWA reports highlighted the problems of solid wastes on Indian Ocean islands and threats to the ecosystems of the Barents and Baltic Seas.

A November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/18 & Corr.1] included further information on GIWA. By the end of 2004, GIWA would have published 22 regional reports and 20 more would be ready for publishing, covering 98 per cent of all regions eligible for assessment under GEF funding. With the GIWA project nearing completion, a proposal for the further use of GIWA networks and assessment methodologies was put forward.

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in July [A/59/126], reported on the results of the Global Marine Assessment (GMA) International Workshop (New York, 8-11 June),

held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/240 [YUN 2003, p. 1355], and convened in conjunction with the fifth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (see p. 1333). The Workshop considered a draft document [A/AC.271/WP.1], prepared by a Group of Experts established in compliance with resolution 58/240, covering the scope, general framework and outline of GMA, and other matters. The Workshop discussed an "Assessment of Assessments" as a first step in the implementation of the start-up phase of GMA, a proposed task force for launching the "Assessment of Assessments", and GMA's scope. The Workshop concluded that, since no consensus was reached on launching GMA, it would be premature to hold the intergovernmental meeting mandated in resolution 58/240 and planned for Reykjavik, Iceland, in October, to formally establish it. The draft conclusions of the Workshop were annexed to the report.

The Assembly, in section XII of **resolution 59/24** (p. 1339), took note of the report, and recognizing the urgent need to initiate the start-up phase (the Assessment of Assessments) for establishing GMA, requested the Secretary-General to convene another workshop in 2005 and to report thereon.

Note by Executive Director. A November note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/18 & Corr.1] reported that the Group of Experts (New York, 23-26 March), convened pursuant to resolution 58/240, concluded that GMA should: produce regular, integrated global syntheses of the status and trends of marine ecosystems, including their socio-economic aspects; be built on integrated regional assessments conducted by regional affiliates; and facilitate continuous access to information on the status and trends of marine ecosystems on diverse geographic scales. Negotiations on the establishment of the GMA process were to continue up to the Assembly's fifty-ninth (2004) session, with the hope that a consensus would be reached that would allow the start-up of the initial, "Assessment of Assessments" phase.

UNEP continued to work on the development of policy summary reports based on the findings of its coastal and marine assessment projects, particularly GIWA (see p. 1058) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (see p. 1056). It also developed modules for the assessments of coastal and marine environments, in partnership with key institutions and collaborators, which would contribute to the GMA process once it was established.

Global Programme of Action

In response to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1066], a November report of the

Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5] contained information on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities [YUN 1995, p. 1081]. UNEP continued to implement the GPA 2002-2006 work programme, endorsed by the Governing Council [YUN 2002, p. 1054], and strived to ensure that the 2001 Montreal Declaration on the implementation of GPA [YUN 2001, p. 965], the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development [YUN 2002, p. 953], and the outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] were addressed in GPA implementation efforts.

At the global level, UNEP hosted the inaugural Global Hilltops-2-Oceans (H2O) Partnership Conference (Cairns, Australia, 11-14 May), which resulted in the Cairns Communiqué [UNEP/GC.23/INF/17] on the integration of water resource and coastal area management from hilltops to oceans through multi-stakeholder partnerships. During the Conference, UNEP and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council launched the Wastewater Emissions Targets: Water and Sanitation for All (WET-WASH) campaign. UNEP finalized guidelines on municipal wastewater management, related checklists and 10 Keys for Local and National Action on Municipal Wastewater, which were annexed to a January note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.VIII/INF/4]. It also helped develop a training course on improving municipal wastewater management in coastal cities and cooperated with the Regional Seas Programme on regional GPA activities.

UNEP's national-level activities included support for the development of national programmes of action and the implementation of a strategic plan on municipal wastewater; programmes dealing with the physical alteration and destruction of coastal and marine habitats and integrated coastal area and river basin management; the development of national legislation to address marine pollution from land-based activities and innovative financial arrangements to secure GPA implementation.

In section X of **resolution 59/24** of 17 November (see p. 1338), the General Assembly called on States to advance the implementation of GPA and the 2001 Montreal Declaration on the implementation of GPA [YUN 2001, p. 965].

Coral reefs

A November report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5] described progress in the implementation of a 2003 Governing Council decision regarding coral reefs [YUN 2003, p. 1067], led by UNEP's Coral Reef Unit. The Unit, which op-

erated under UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, provided programme support and policy analysis on the conservation, management and sustainable use of coral reef resources. The Unit furthered the subject of cold-water coral reefs and raised the issue of dredging in coral reef regions. It was developing relationships with coral reef stakeholders from private and industrial sectors, including the dredging industry, and initiated a project, with the International Association for Dredging Companies and the Central Dredging Association, on reducing the environmental impact of dredging operations in areas with corals. A UNEP initiative, established in collaboration with Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom and the World Wide Fund for Nature, commissioned a report on a comprehensive and up-to-date baseline on cold-water coral reefs from around the world. The report, "Cold-water corals: out of sight—no longer out of mind", was released on 28 June at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Okinawa, Japan.

In February, the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) Mesoamerican Reef Alliance project, providing for the establishment and strengthening of private sector alliances, was signed in Belize City, Belize. In preparation for the expansion of ICRAN into additional coral reef areas as announced at the World Summit, UNEP supported an assessment of the needs, priorities and opportunities for coral reef work in a number of regions. In September, the World Resources Institute, with support from ICRAN, the UNEP regional coordinating unit for the Caribbean and the United States Agency for International Development, published an analysis of threats to Caribbean coral reefs, entitled "Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean". The joint ICRAN board and steering committee meeting (Washington, D.C., 21-23 January) adopted a new ICRAN framework document which emphasized a regional focus. The Executive Director's report also described UNEP's efforts to realize the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation [YUN 2002, p. 821] with respect to coral reefs; collaborative efforts in coral-related activities with multilateral environmental agreements; collaboration with UN agencies to address the urgency of achieving sustainability in the management and use of coral reefs; and efforts to engage international financial institutions.

Regional Seas Programme

A November note by the UNEP secretariat [UNEP/GC.23/INF/26] provided information on the implementation of the Governing Council's 2003 decisions on regional seas conventions and action plans [YUN 2003, p. 1067] and UNEP's activi-

ties in marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution. With regard to regional seas strategies for sustainable development, the note summarized progress relating to the global strategic directions/guidelines agreed upon by the Fifth (2003) Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans [YUN 2003, p. 1068]. The directions/guidelines were finalized at the Sixth Global Meeting (Istanbul, Turkey, 29 November–3 December) [UNEP(DEC)/RS.6]. Based on the report of a feasibility study, UNEP planned developing a global initiative on the sustainable management of marine litter through regional pilot projects.

UNEP finalized host country agreements with Japan and the Republic of Korea to co-host the regional coordinating unit offices (Toyama, Japan and Busan, Republic of Korea) of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the North-West Pacific Region (NOWPAP), established in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 966], which were to become operational in November. NOWPAP's ninth intergovernmental meeting was held in Busan (2-4 November).

With support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), UNEP assisted in institutionalizing the Action Plan of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the North-East Pacific, first signed in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1055]. Informal consultations were taking place on institutional arrangements, including a host country for the secretariat and its programme of work.

UNEP continued to support the 1981 Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region [YUN 1981, p. 840] and the 1985 Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region [YUN 1985, p. 816], and assisted in mobilizing a major Global Environment Facility project in the Abidjan Convention region.

The Regional Seas and GPA Coordinating Offices, in collaboration with the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sudeste, organized workshops and supported expert meetings in the region of the South-East Pacific Action Plan and Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific, both established in 1981 [YUN 1981, p. 833], including on integrated coastal area and river basin management, and marine mammals.

Regarding marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution,

UNEP and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) finalized a report of a joint IMO/UNEP forum on regional arrangements in emergency response to marine pollution and held a joint workshop on marine pollution prevention and environmental management in ports in East Africa (Mombassa, Kenya, 26-30 April). Collaboration between UNEP, IMO and other partners on the development of related activities also continued.

Caribbean Sea management

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/261 [YUN 2002, p. 1056], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/59/173] assessing progress made in promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development. It described activities undertaken by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, UNESCO, and various States. The Secretary-General's report contained an ACS report, which included information on the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on the Caribbean Sea Initiative (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 26 May 2003).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/59/483/Add.2], adopted **resolution 59/230** without vote [agenda item 85(b)].

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

The General Assembly,

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

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

Taking into account all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000 and 57/261 of 20 December 2002,

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

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

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the overall legal frame-

work for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

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

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

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

Welcoming also the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the establishment by the United Nations Environment Programme of the Regional Activities Centre in Guadeloupe to assist in the implementation of the Protocol,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

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

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

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

Expressing deep concern over the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the Caribbean region in 2004,

Recognizing national and regional efforts to undertake disaster preparedness, response and mitigation efforts to minimize the impact of natural disasters, and reiterating the responsibility of all States in that regard,

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

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

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

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

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

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

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

Noting the importance of the ongoing work of the Working Group on climate change and disaster risk reduction, established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

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

Welcoming the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish the Technical Advisory Group to further advance the Caribbean Sea Initiative and the implementation of resolutions 55/203 and 57/261, inter alia, through the preparation of a technical report,

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

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

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Association of Caribbean States, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/261;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

4. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in res-

olution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

5. *Also encourages* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, in order to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships, physical impacts on coral reefs and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

6. *Welcomes* the wide range of activities being implemented within the scope of the mandate of resolution 57/261, with a view to promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

7. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

8. *Calls upon* States to continue to prioritize action on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, and also calls upon them to advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

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

11. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the efforts of the Association of Caribbean States to further implement resolutions 55/203

and 57/261, and invites the Association to submit a report on its progress to the Secretary-General for consideration during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;

12. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

13. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes by strengthening the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism;

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

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

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

17. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, based on their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

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

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

Conservation of wildlife

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

Reports of Executive Director. In November [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.4], the Executive Director, in line with a 2003 decision of the Governing Council of the Parties to the Agreement [YUN 2003, p. 1068], reported that UNEP had completed a draft report reviewing and evaluating the Agreement's work since its adoption. A revised report would be submitted to the UNEP Governing Council in 2005. The Executive Director's report also provided an overview of UNEP involvement in the Great Apes Survival Project.

Also in November [UNEP/GC.23/INF/5], the Executive Director, reporting on the implementation of a 2003 Governing Council decision on the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) [YUN 2003, p. 1068], stated that UNEP established a process to strengthen the Centre, including consultations with key stakeholders and the development of a review process. It completed a study on a network for enhancing the work of WCMC and other organizations concerned with biodiversity, particularly biodiversity assessment and information management; finalized a report on the state of the world's protected areas to be launched at the third World Conservation Union World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, Thailand, 17-25 November); continued to strengthen the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA); and initiated discussions with the relevant partners on the renewed mandate for the United Nations List of Protected Areas (UN List) process, the latest (2003) edition of which was released during the fifth World Parks Congress (Durban, South Africa, 8-17 September 2003).

Protection against harmful products and waste

Chemical safety

As at 31 December, 72 States and the EC had signed and 79 States and the EC were parties to the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade [YUN 1998, p. 997]. During the year, 14 States ratified the Convention, two accepted it, one approved it, and nine acceded to it. The Convention entered into force on 24 February, 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

Prior to the entry into force of the Convention, the PIC Procedure was applied voluntarily by Governments.

The 29-member Interim Chemical Review Committee, a subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the PIC Procedure, established

in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 997] to make recommendations on specific chemicals or hazardous pesticide formulations for inclusion in the PIC procedure, held its fifth session (Geneva, 2-5 February) [UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.5/15], at which it made a number of recommendations on chemicals to INC.

The eleventh and final session of INC (Geneva, 18 September) [UNEP/FAO/PIC/INC.11/7] extended the period for inclusion of any additional chemicals under the interim PIC procedure from the date of entry into force of the Convention until the date of the opening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see below) and agreed to decide on the inclusion of any additional chemicals to the interim PIC procedure in accordance with articles 5, 6, 7 and 22 of the Convention. On the recommendation of the Interim Chemical Review Committee (see above), INC made tetraethyl lead and tetramethyl lead (gasoline additives) subject to the interim PIC procedure, along with the pesticide parathion. INC did not reach a consensus on the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in the voluntary PIC procedure.

Conference of Parties. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (Geneva, 20-24 September) [UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.1/33] adopted its rules of procedure and financial rules and requested the secretariat to propose options on a financial mechanism. It established a 31 member Chemical Review Committee as a subsidiary body and rules and procedures for preventing and dealing with conflicts of interest relating to the activities of the Committee. The Conference invited the UNEP Executive Director and the FAO Director-General to make proposals on a Convention secretariat for consideration and approval at its second meeting and to continue to perform those functions in the interim, and to appoint an Executive Director in consultation with the parties. It accepted the offer of Italy and Switzerland to host the secretariat jointly in Rome and Geneva and decided that developing countries should be adequately represented at senior grades in the secretariat. It also approved an operational budget for 2005 and an indicative budget for 2006.

The Conference adopted the regions and listing of countries as PIC regions for the purposes of article 5, paragraph 5 of the Convention; amendments to annex III to the Convention; and annex VI to the Convention setting out procedures for the settlement of disputes. It also adopted procedures for banned or severely restricted chemicals, and established a period of transition (24 February 2004 to 24 February 2006) from the interim to the Convention PIC procedure. The Conference encouraged the World Customs Or-

ganization to assign specific Harmonized System codes to the chemicals listed in annex III of the Convention. It decided to convene an open-ended ad hoc working group to consider the issue of non-compliance under article 17. Decisions were also adopted on regional delivery of technical assistance and on cooperation with the World Trade Organization.

International chemicals management

Report of Executive Director. A November report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.1], outlined progress in the development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM), pursuant to a 2002 Governing Council decision [YUN 2002, p. 1063]. Inter-sessional regional consultations, following the first (2003) session of the Preparatory Committee of the Development of SAICM [YUN 2003, p. 1071], were held by the African Group (Abuja, Nigeria, 24-26 May) and the Latin American and Caribbean Group (Nairobi, Kenya, 2-3 May). The second session of the Preparatory Committee (Nairobi, 4-8 October) [SAICM/PREPCOM.2/4] agreed on a tripartite structure for SAICM, comprising a high-level declaration, an overarching policy statement and a global plan of action. The Committee's president and secretariat were to continue intersessional work, and regional consultations were expected to take place in February and March 2005. Following one further Preparatory Committee meeting in 2005, the final international conference on chemicals management was planned to take place in 2006.

Lead

The Executive Director reported [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.1] that activities for implementing the 2003 Governing Council decision on lead [YUN 2003, p. 1071] were constrained by lack of funding and staff resources. Concerning the phasing out of lead in gasoline, 65 bodies, drawn from Governments, the private sector, NGOs, and international organizations had joined the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, launched at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821]. In Africa, UNEP was supporting national-level activities, including workshops, training sessions for gasoline attendants, the formation of country task teams and public awareness campaigns. A regional conference on progress made in leaded gasoline phase-out in sub-Saharan Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 5-7 May) re-confirmed the phase-out date of the end of 2005 set by African Governments and their partners, including UNEP, in 2001, and proposed actions to ensure that the target was met. The conference

outcomes were adopted by the tenth regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Sirte, Libya, 26-30 June). To date, 50 per cent of gasoline sold in Africa was unleaded; nine countries had completely phased out leaded gasoline, 12 had fixed phase-out dates by December 2005, 16 introduced unleaded gasoline, and 20 had action plans to phase out leaded gasoline.

Mercury programme

Responding to a 2003 Governing Council decision on mercury [YUN 2003, p. 1071], the Executive Director, in November [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.1], reported on the UNEP mercury programme, whose long-term objective was to facilitate national, regional and global action to reduce or eliminate as far as possible anthropogenic uses and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. Its immediate objective was to encourage all countries to adopt goals, identify at-risk populations and ecosystems and reduce anthropogenic mercury releases. The report described capacity-building and technical activities; programme funding; technical and financial assistance activities; and further activities.

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/19], provided an analysis of the views and options submitted by 25 Governments and regional economic organizations as at 1 October, in response to his 23 February request to them to report on progress in implementing the Governing Council's 2003 decision on mercury, especially with regard to any goals or national action taken, and to provide views on further measures to address significant global adverse impacts of mercury and further action on other heavy metals.

Harmful products

In May [A/59/81-E/2004/63], the Secretary-General submitted a report covering the seventh triennial review of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments. The report updated developments since the submission of the Secretary-General's last report in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 970].

Significant progress had been made since the previous review, particularly the coming into force of the Rotterdam (see p. 1063) and the Stockholm Conventions (see p. 1066). The Secretary-General made recommendations to the Economic and Social Council relating to the permanent online availability of the List and printing updates in all UN official languages;

strengthening capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries and providing financial resources in support of national efforts to improve the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals; and full participation by Member States in the process to successfully develop the strategic approach to international chemicals management (see p. 1064) by 2005.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 23 July [meeting 50], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2004/55** [draft: E/2004/L.46] without vote [agenda item 13(e)].

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982, 38/149 of 19 December 1983, 39/229 of 18 December 1984 and 44/226 of 22 December 1989, Assembly decisions 47/439 of 22 December 1992 and 50/431 of 20 December 1995, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/41 of 30 July 1998 and 2001/33 of 26 July 2001,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment, which contains a review of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments,

Taking note of the fact that an increasing number of countries participate in the preparation of the Consolidated List,

Noting with satisfaction the continued close collaboration among the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation and dissemination of the Consolidated List,

Taking note of commitments made and targets established regarding environmentally sound management of chemicals in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), adopted by the Summit on 4 September 2002,

Noting the entry into force, in early 2004, of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, and notes that the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments is available online;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the cooperation extended by Governments in the preparation of the Consolidated List, and urges all Governments, in particular those that have not yet done so, to provide the information necessary to relevant organizations for inclusion in future issues of the Consolidated List;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to update the electronic version of the Consolidated List, alternating between chemicals and pharmaceuticals

every year, while printing only new data to complement previously printed issues for the benefit of those, particularly in developing countries, who may not have easy access to the electronic version;

4. *Urges* all Governments to participate fully in the process of developing a strategic approach to international chemicals management by 2005, in order to achieve the 2020 target of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set out in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, pursuant to which chemicals would be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance, and calls for a more coordinated use of existing international instruments in this field, taking into account the work undertaken by the United Nations system in this regard;

5. *Encourages* countries to implement the new Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, as agreed in paragraph 23 (c) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as soon as possible, with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

6. *Urges* all Governments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and to fully implement them;

7. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral agencies to continue to strengthen and coordinate their activities for improving the capacity-building of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, including through technical assistance in the area of the sound management of hazardous chemicals and dangerous pharmaceutical products;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to continue to utilize the work being undertaken by relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in this area, as well as that being carried out under international agreements and conventions in related areas, in updating the Consolidated List;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report every three years, in accordance with resolution 39/229, on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account previous Assembly resolutions on the same subject, as appropriate.

Persistent organic pollutants

As at 31 December, 88 States and the EC were parties to the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) [YUN 2001, p. 971]. During the year, 34 States ratified the Convention, one accepted it, one State and the EC approved it, and 10 acceded to it. The Convention entered into force on 17 May, 90 days after the de-

posit of the fiftieth instrument of approval. The first Conference of the Parties to the Convention was scheduled to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in May 2005.

The Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices, established in 2002 by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain POPs [YUN 2002, p. 1064], at its third session (Tokyo, Japan, 11-16 October) [UNEP/POPS/EGB.3/3], endorsed the draft guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices and agreed to forward them to the Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

Hazardous wastes

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420], which entered into force in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 685], rose to 163 with the accession of Chad, the Cook Islands, Liberia, Rwanda and Togo. The 1995 amendment to the Convention [YUN 1995, p. 1333], not yet in force, had been ratified, accepted or approved by 55 parties. During the year, Botswana, the Syrian Arab Republic and Togo acceded to the 1999 Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1999, p. 998], bringing the total number of parties to four.

The third session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Convention (26-30 April) [UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/34 & Corr.1], adopted the 2004 work plan of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme. Other decisions dealt with the selection of project proposals under the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Convention to 2010, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1065]; legal aspects of the dismantling of ships; a proposed decision on the Joint Working Group of ILO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Convention (see p. 1067); issues related to annex VII to the Convention; the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation [YUN 1999, p. 998]; establishment of a mechanism for implementation and compliance; technical guidelines on POPs; implementation of existing technical guidelines; work on hazard characteristics; India's application regarding plastic-coated cable scrap; the import of wastes contained in annex IX to the Convention; and illegal traffic in hazardous wastes.

The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (Geneva, 25-

29 October) [UNEP/CHW.7/33] adopted amendments to annexes VIII and IX to the Convention; a standardized format for reporting under article 3 of the Convention on national definitions of hazardous wastes; and technical guidelines on POPs and on the environmentally sound recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds. The meeting asked the Open-ended Working Group to finalize technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes resulting from surface treatment of metals and plastics and invited Parties to provide comments on the implementation of existing technical guidelines. It also adopted the 2005-2006 work plan of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme and that of the Convention's Open-ended Working Group. It requested the secretariat to conclude a framework agreement with Iran to establish a Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer in Tehran. The meeting incorporated modifications into the French language version of the lists of wastes contained in annexes VIII and IX to the Convention. Other decisions related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Convention [YUN 2002, p. 1065]; hazardous waste minimization; the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative; implementation of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [YUN 1994, p. 783]; the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [YUN 2002, p. 907]; follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821]; regional centres for training and technology transfer; designation of competent authorities and focal points; work on hazard characteristics; the disposal of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) wastes; the import of wastes contained in annex IX to the Convention; harmonization of lists of wastes and related procedures; the Joint Working Group of ILO, IMO and the Basel Convention on Ship Scrapping; the environmentally sound management of ship dismantling and the abandonment of ships; the Basel Protocol [YUN 1999, p. 998]; the Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention; the mechanism established in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1065] to promote implementation and compliance; a checklist for the preparation of national legislation for the implementation of the Convention; illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes; the transmission of information; bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements; international cooperation, including with WTO and the Global Environment Facility; sustainable financing; and administrative, financial and other

matters. (For information on the human rights aspects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, see p. 766).

Cleaner production and sustainable consumption patterns

The Executive Director, reporting in November [UNEP/GC.23/INF/5] on the implementation of a 2003 Governing Council decision on the promotion of sustainable consumption and production [YUN 2003, p. 1073], described UNEP's activities in cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), activities undertaken through UNEP's cleaner production and sustainable consumption programmes, and training and capacity-building programmes.

The Global Compact, an initiative launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 989] with the aim of engaging the business community in advancing basic values in human rights, and UNEP, held a policy dialogue on sustainable consumption: marketing and communications (Paris, 5-6 April). The First African Expert Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Casablanca, Morocco, 19-20 May) adopted the Casablanca Statement on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which, among other things, called on the UN system, including UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and DESA to strengthen their support to national, subregional and regional efforts in Africa to promote sustainable consumption and production, as part of the 10-year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production—the Marrakech Process—agreed to in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 840]. The Statement was to be submitted to the tenth regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Sirte, Libya, 29-30 June). Other meetings held were: the Third African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Casablanca, 17-20 May); and the European stakeholder meeting on sustainable consumption and production (Ostend, Belgium, 25-26 November), organized by UNEP and the EC.

UNEP held its eighth International High-level Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Monterrey, Mexico, 15-16 November) to select methodologies, approaches, projects and funding mechanisms to be replicated and used to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; build new partnerships to share and leverage resources and facilitate the implementation process; and identify priority activities for UNEP and other organizations mandated to implement the sustainability agenda. Seminar participants agreed on 16 recommendations relating to water; energy; consumption; resource

use, technology and products; and other issues for consideration by the Governing Council in 2005, which would review progress on the sustainable consumption and production agenda.

Governing Council action. On 31 March [dec. SS.VIII/4], the Governing Council decided to discuss, in 2005, domestic, industrial and hazardous waste management, in particular capacity-building and technology support, and to consider innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in that regard.

Other matters

Environmental law

In response to a 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1073], the Executive Director, in November [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.3], reported on follow-up to the 2002 Global Judges Symposium on the Role of Law and Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 1065], focusing on capacity-building in the area of environmental law. The report summarized the results of activities conducted pursuant to the decision, including the creation of a UNEP alliance of chief justices; the establishment of a global training centre for judges in Cairo, Egypt, as a centre of excellence for the implementation of UNEP's global judges capacity-building programme; the creation of judges forums on environmental law in Europe, the Pacific, southern Africa, the Arab States, the Caribbean and francophone African countries; the development of a UNEP Judges Handbook on Environmental Law for common law, civil law and the Arab States; the convening of regional chief justices needs-assessment and planning meetings; the implementation of the capacity-building programme for judges and other legal stakeholders; and systematic and sustained capacity-building activities at the national level in several countries. Future activities would focus on intensifying national judicial training in environmental law through national judicial training institutes, supported by UNEP and its partner agencies; dissemination of the UNEP Judges Handbook on Environmental Law to judges worldwide; and further strengthening networking among chief justices through a UNEP global alliance of chief justices for environmental law.

In response to a further 2003 Governing Council decision [YUN 2003, p. 1073], the Executive Director reported on the implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo

Programme III), adopted by the Governing Council in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 972]. The report listed UNEP achievements in the implementation of Montevideo Programme III, including the launch of its environmental law website and the joint UNEP-FAO-World Conservation Union database—ECOLEX—and the publication of environmental law materials and training manuals. Montevideo Programme III programme areas warranting special attention in the second half of the decade included implementation, compliance and enforcement; strengthening and development of international environmental law; freshwater resources; coastal and marine ecosystems; and trade and environment. UNEP activities in those areas would continue to be aligned with, and directed towards achieving the internationally agreed goals of the 2000 Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49]. Further information on the implementation of Montevideo Programme III for the period 2000-2005 was provided in a December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/10].

Occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

In response to a 2003 Governing Council decision on the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [YUN 2003, p. 1073] the Executive Director, reported in November [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.2] that UNEP's Post-Conflict Assessment Unit convened a trilateral technical meeting on environmental issues to discuss implementation of the decision, including the recommendations contained in the 2002 UNEP Desk Study on the Environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [YUN 2003, p. 1073]. The meeting considered the next steps to be undertaken by UNEP under eight jointly agreed priority desk study recommendations. The Unit subsequently held capacity-building training seminars for Palestinian officials, including on communications and the environment, environmental quality standards on wastewater and air pollution, environmental impact assessment, environmental policy-making and environmental laboratory analysis.

Human settlements

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

In August [A/59/198], the Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 58/226 [YUN 2003, p. 1076], reported on follow-up to the

Assembly's twenty-fifth (2001) special session [YUN 2001, p. 973] to review and appraise the implementation of the Habitat Agenda [YUN 1996, p. 994], adopted by the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) [ibid., p. 992], and on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). As a result of a positive response by Governments to the Assembly's calls in resolution 58/226 [YUN 2003, p. 1076] for increased contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (see p. 1076), general-purpose funds from Governments rose from \$6 million in 2002 to \$8.3 million in 2003, and special-purpose contributions from Governments and other donors increased from \$30 million in 2002 to \$37.8 million in 2003. The UN-Habitat Executive Director appealed to member States for multi-year funding, to enable more effective support of programme implementation. There were also promising signs of commitments from other sources.

Implementation of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, the establishment of which was endorsed by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1083], began with a programme definition phase (March to December). The UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory (GUO) was strengthened as a worldwide monitoring and learning network to assist countries and cities in collecting, analysing and using urban indicators and statistical data. UN-Habitat was providing technical assistance to Governments through GUO and technical cooperation projects with partners to promote the development of city performance monitoring systems and the development and implementation of indicator systems for monitoring the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 52] and national and local development targets. Joint initiatives were established with ongoing urban projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Mexico, South Africa and Yemen. With the World Bank, UN-Habitat produced operational guidelines for municipal performance measurement and introduced a programme on the monitoring of urban inequities, whose overarching global goal was to influence urban policies by providing knowledge support to Governments. An ongoing dialogue on the improvement of slum-dwellers' conditions was also initiated.

UN-Habitat established a Partners and Youth Section to provide an integrated approach and promote cooperation with Habitat Agenda partners. Cooperation and collaboration with NGOs

and other Habitat Agenda partners centred on the implementation of UN-Habitat's Global Campaigns for Secure Tenure and Urban Governance, launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 995], and on the global monitoring of urbanization trends. UN-Habitat was working towards increasing the number of women's organizations and women's affairs ministries working in the area of human settlement in order to bring human settlement issues into the mainstream agenda and the 10-year review, in 2005, of the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170], adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women [ibid., p. 1169] (see p. 1145). It conducted studies on women's rights to land and property as part of a larger study in Latin America, the findings of which would be published during the year.

UN-Habitat was cooperating with member States to address issues facing young people. Together with the UN Secretariat's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and ILO, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on urban youth employment (Nairobi, Kenya, June). A global partnership initiative on urban youth development in Africa was to be launched at the second session of the World Urban Forum (see p. 1073). UN-Habitat was also cooperating with various UN agencies in youth-related initiatives.

Initiatives of the Cities Alliance partnership between the World Bank and UN-Habitat included a state-wide slum upgrading programme in Bahia, Brazil. The MDGs were integrated into new guidelines for the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and linkages between the common country assessment and UNDAF, the MDGs and poverty reduction strategy papers were clarified. UN-Habitat began assigning programme managers to selected UNDP country offices, with 33 programme managers expected to be in place by the end of the year.

The Secretary-General said that multilateral and bilateral assistance for housing and urban infrastructure, which amounted to some \$4 billion annually, had not increased in recent years and played a limited supporting role in view of the magnitude of the housing and basic services needs in developing countries. While major gains were registered during the period 2000-2003 in implementing the Programme, human and financial resource constraints limited the achievement of better results in partnership activities. The Secretary-General encouraged Governments to: include water, sanitation and human settlements in their national development plans and to integrate urban poverty in national

poverty reduction strategy documents; increase the non-earmarked component of their contribution to facilitate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the 2001 Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted by the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly in resolution S-25/2 [YUN 2001, p. 974], and the relevant commitments of the Millennium Declaration, in particular the MDG target of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 [YUN 2000, p. 52]; and support the participation of partner groups from developing countries at the second (2004) session of the World Urban Forum (see p. 1073). He encouraged Governments and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian people. He also encouraged Governments and international agencies to review and promote the role of cities in sustainable development as the engines of economic growth and to assess their social risk and opportunity, as well as their potential assets in relation to rural hinterlands.

Coordinated implementation of Habitat Agenda

In May [E/2004/70], the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/62 [YUN 2003, p. 1075] regarding the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The report discussed the continued increase in contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, a campaign to widen the donor base, the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian people and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund. It described cooperation and collaboration with NGOs and other Habitat Agenda partners, including civil society representatives, women's organizations, and member States and UN agencies working on youth-related initiatives. It also described the work of the Habitat Agenda task manager system, the establishment of which was supported by the General Assembly in the 2001 Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements [YUN 2001, p. 974]; coordination efforts through the United Nations Development Group, UNDAF and UNDP; and the inclusion of shelter and urbanization issues in national development strategies.

The Secretary-General encouraged Governments to increase their contributions for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the 2001 Declaration and the MDGs; facilitate partnerships at the national and local levels with civil society organizations, local authorities and the business

sector; and support the participation of partner groups from developing countries in the second (2004) World Urban Forum (see p. 1073).

On 23 July, the Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2004/300**, took note of the Secretary-General's report; decided to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its fifty-ninth (2004) session; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a further report for consideration by the Council in 2005.

Pursuant to the Council's decision, the Secretary-General, by a September note [A/59/382], transmitted his May report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (see above) to the Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/59/484], adopted **resolution 59/239** without vote [agenda item 86].

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3327(XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 57/275 of 20 December 2002 and 58/226 and 58/227 of 23 December 2003,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003 and Council decision 2004/300 of 23 July 2004,

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

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

Recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, as proposed in the Cities Without Slums Initiative, and recalling further the goal contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation,

Recognizing that the overall thrust of the strategic vision of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation in respect of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development,

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

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

Reiterating the call to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to increase the efforts to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure-development programmes and housing-finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing that humanitarian assistance in the field of human settlements must be provided in ways that will be supportive of reconstruction and long-term development,

Noting the convening of the second session of the World Urban Forum, organized by UN-Habitat in cooperation with the Government of Spain, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the Municipality of Barcelona, in Barcelona, from 13 to 17 September 2004,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Canada and the city of Vancouver for their willingness to host the third session of the World Urban Forum in 2006,

Emphasizing the importance of access to basic services for the urban poor, and in this regard noting the decision of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its nineteenth session on water and sanitation in cities,

Noting the commitment to integrate urban planning and management in relation to housing, transport, employment opportunities, environmental conditions and community facilities, and further noting the commitment to promote, where appropriate, the upgrading of informal settlements and urban slums as an expedient measure and pragmatic solution to the urban shelter deficit,

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

2. Recognizes that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and stresses that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support the Governments of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of the requisite resources, capacity-building, the transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment;

3. Calls for continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invites Governments to provide multi-year funding to support programme implementation;

4. Also calls for increased, non-earmarked contributions to the Foundation;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue to work with the World Bank Group, regional development banks, other development banks, the private sector and other relevant partners to field-test approaches through pilot projects and to develop longer-term programmes to mobilize resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition;

6. Calls upon the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and other operational activities of UN-Habitat for the effective implementation of its field programmes;

7. Recognizes the important role of regional offices and personnel of UN-Habitat in providing operational support to developing countries, and in this regard calls upon Governments to strengthen and support financially the regional offices of UN-Habitat in order to expand operational support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

8. Calls upon UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with the other organizations of the United Nations system, integrating UN-Habitat staff as appropriate into existing United Nations country offices;

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

10. Encourages Governments to establish local, national and regional urban observatories and to provide financial and substantive support to UN-Habitat for the further development of methodologies for data collection, analysis and dissemination;

11. Encourages Member States as well as Habitat Agenda partners to provide support for the preparation of the UN-Habitat flagship reports, the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World's Cities* report, on a biennial basis so as to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world;

12. Encourages Governments to support the UN-Habitat Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance as important tools for, inter alia, promoting administration of land and property rights, in accordance with national circumstances, and enhancing access to affordable credit by the urban poor;

13. Invites Governments to continue to promote linkages between urban and rural areas in line with the Habitat Agenda, which recognized that cities and rural areas are interdependent economically, socially and environmentally;

14. Encourages Governments and UN-Habitat to continue to promote partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners, including women's groups and academic and professional groups, in order to empower them, within the legal framework and conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in the provision of adequate shelter

for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

15. *Also encourages* Governments to support and enable the participation of youth in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through social, cultural and economic activities at the city level and other national- and local-level activities;

16. *Further encourages* Governments to include issues pertaining to shelter, sustainable human settlements and urban poverty in their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

17. *Urges* the donor community to support the efforts of developing countries to make pro-poor investments in services and infrastructure in order to improve living environments, in particular in slums and informal settlements;

18. *Requests* UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development, and encourages UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other relevant agencies in the United Nations system in this field;

19. *Invites* the Secretary-General to incorporate the assessment of progress made towards the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 in his report on the review in 2005 of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

20. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to work together closely in the preparations for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to ensure a fruitful policy discussion of the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements;

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

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

UN Human Settlements Programme

Governing Council

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/206 [YUN 2001, p. 987], the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) met biennially. It did not meet in 2004. The Governing Council's twentieth session would take place in 2005.

Committee of Permanent Representatives

The Committee of Permanent Representatives, the intersessional body of UN-Habitat's Governing Council, met three times in 2003

(4 June, 4 September, 11 December) and four times in 2004 (3 March, 30 June, 30 September and 9 December) [HSP/GC/20/3]. The Committee discussed follow-up to the decisions of the nineteenth (2003) session of the Governing Council [YUN 2003, p. 1078]; implementation of the UN-Habitat work programme, and of UN-Habitat's Global Campaigns for Secure Tenure and Urban Governance [YUN 2000, p. 995]; UN-Habitat's operational activities; preparations for the second session of the World Urban Forum (Barcelona, Spain, 13-17 September) (see p. 1073); UN-Habitat's financial status; the outcome of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see p. 827); implementation of the MDG on slums; the programme on water and sanitation for cities; strengthening the role and status of local authorities and promoting effective decentralization; mainstreaming gender issues in UN-Habitat's work; and the UN-Habitat budget for the 2006-2007 biennium.

UN-Habitat activities

UN-Habitat's work in 2004, within its four-pillar strategy for attaining the goal of cities without slums, consisted of advocacy of global norms, analysis of information, field testing of solutions and financing. Its shelter, urban development, research and finance programmes, and its Global Campaigns on Secure Tenure and Urban Governance [YUN 2000, p. 995], were revised to contribute to the strategic vision adopted by the Governing Council in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 1003] and updated in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1081]. The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure was launched in three countries in West Africa and an international task force created to facilitate negotiated policy alternatives to unlawful eviction. Regional and country consultations were conducted under the Water for African Cities and the Water for Asian Cities programmes, and community-led initiatives for improving water and sanitation for the urban poor were supported. Consultations started on a new Water for Eastern European Cities programme. Training and capacity-building for pursuing the Habitat Agenda and achieving the MDGs were conducted in eight countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, technical support was provided to the capacity-building component in urban safety and youth-at-risk. The United Cities and Local Governments, an association advocating democratic local self-government worldwide, was launched during a meeting of its Founding Congress (Paris, 2-5 May), and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance was launched in Morocco, Senegal and Burkina Faso. New field operations in disaster management and response were identified in fif-

teen countries and several islands, and work on the strategy for addressing shelter problems for women and orphans afflicted by HIV/AIDS in informal settlements was ongoing in East Africa.

UN-Habitat's monitoring systems were strengthened to enable effective tracking of the MDG on slums [YUN 2000, p. 52], with Urban Inequities Surveys implemented in selected cities. UN-Habitat made considerable progress in preparing its Global Urban Indicators Database Version 3, including by revising urban indicators in line with the MDGs. The 2004-2005 edition of one of UN-Habitat's flagship publications, *The State of the World's Cities 2004/05: Globalization and Urban Culture*, was launched at the World Urban Forum's second session (see below).

In 2004, UN-Habitat had 95 technical programmes and projects under execution in 56 countries. It executed 36 technical cooperation projects, including 12 regional programmes, in 31 countries in Africa and the Arab States, and published 5 reports on the state of human settlements. In Asia and the Pacific, 23 projects worth \$15.9 million were executed. New projects were undertaken in Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, and projects covering a range of priority issues from urban upgrading to urban governance were implemented in 13 countries. UN-Habitat started a new Urban and Housing Rehabilitation Programme for Iraq (UHRP), working within the UN strategic planning framework for Iraq (see p. 354), and served as the Deputy Task Manager for Cluster 4 of the Plan on infrastructure and housing. Large programmes, including reconstruction projects, were implemented in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and Europe. The Regional and Technical Cooperation Division also provided advisory services and implemented technical programmes and projects within the Global Campaigns [YUN 2000, p. 995], assisted several countries with post-war reconstruction and recovery and worked on training programmes and capacity-building in disaster prevention and management. Considerable progress was made in establishing the Slum Upgrading Facility, with \$1.8 million raised for the design phase, and \$10 million for the Facility's three-year pilot phase.

UN-Habitat convened the second session of the World Urban Forum (Barcelona, Spain, 13-17 September) [HSP/GC/20/2/Add.2] on the theme "Cities: Crossroads of Cultures, Inclusiveness and Integration". It focused on urban cultures, realities, governance and renaissance, and thematic dialogues on urban poor, resources, sustainability, services, and disasters and reconstruction. The third Forum session would be held in Vancouver, Canada, in 2006.

Through the Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat and the World Bank collaborated to strengthen local government authorities, help in the emergency reconstruction of urban infrastructure, initiate and sustain labour intensive municipal public works, formulate city development strategies, and set up urban indicators databases, among other objectives, in Afghanistan, East Asia, Egypt, Latvia, Tanzania, and Yemen. UN-Habitat continued to publish its flagship quarterly magazine *Habitat Debate*. In collaboration with UNDP, UN-Habitat established a worldwide network of Habitat Programme Managers to enhance normative work with respect to implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the MDGs on water and sanitation and on slums [YUN 2000, p. 52]. UN-Habitat's disaster recovery activities related to the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December (see p. 952) were bringing a long-term, community-oriented perspective to the rapid recovery efforts of agencies and NGOs in Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

UN-Habitat's main focus with regard to urban environment was on assisting local authorities in better planning and managing their environmental resources towards more sustainable growth and development. Expert group meetings were held in Burkina Faso, Kenya and Sri Lanka on basic urban services and sustainable urban mobility. UN-Habitat continued in-country activities to achieve the MDG on slums. Activities of the Cities Without Slums subregional programme for Eastern and Southern Africa were initiated and consolidated. The Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme finalized the pilot phase of the initiative to document and review good urban policies and enabling legislation; evaluations were conducted in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Cooperation with UNEP

A December report [HSP/GC/20/10] prepared jointly by the Executive Directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP described cooperation between the two organizations in the areas of assessment, policy development and implementation of joint initiatives; cooperation in Africa, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regions; and opportunities for future cooperation.

Decentralization and strengthening local authorities

In response to a 2003 Governing Council resolution [YUN 2003, p. 1079], the Executive Director

submitted a November report [HSP/GC/20/7] on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities. The report discussed, among other issues, the establishment by UN-Habitat of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED). AGRED's inaugural meeting (Ville de Gatineau, Canada, 9-10 March) reviewed the status of decentralization legislation of selected countries and the basic principles of decentralization policies, including subsidiarity, administrative and financial capacities of local authorities, governance and democracy at the local level, with the aim of developing best practices. AGRED members prepared draft guidelines on decentralization, which were discussed during its second meeting (Barcelona, Spain, 14 September) and presented to the tenth meeting (Barcelona, 12 September) of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, established in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 990]. The draft guidelines were annexed to the Executive Director's report. AGRED members also agreed on the format for documenting best practices. Given the interconnection between the promotion of decentralization and the monitoring of local democracy, UN-Habitat and the newly established United Cities and Local Governments (see p. 1072) agreed to establish a global observatory of local democracy and decentralization. A special AGRED meeting on the guidelines and best practices was scheduled to take place in conjunction with the twentieth (2005) Governing Council session. A dialogue

session on decentralization would also form part of the Council's deliberations.

UN Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

Biennial financial audit

Allocations and expenditures in respect of project activities and programme support cost amounted to \$59 million and \$48 million, respectively, leaving an unexpended allocation of \$11 million. The UN Board of auditors, in its report on UN-Habitat financial reports and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2003 [A/59/5/Add.8], found that only \$175,000 of the invalid unliquidated obligations of \$775,000 (that remained outstanding as of 31 December 2002) was cancelled in 2003, leaving an outstanding balance of \$600,000 or 5 per cent of the total unliquidated obligations of \$11,827,356 as at 31 December 2003. Operationally completed projects had not been financially closed or completed within 12 months of the date of their operational completion, as required and adequate assurance on the accuracy and completeness of non-expendable property was not obtained. Of 24 contracts reviewed, seven (29 per cent) did not comply with the six-month evaluation requirement, and the database on consultants at the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific did not include information on their performance.