

Chapter I

Strengthening and restructuring of the United Nations system

During 2005, the implementation of the Secretary-General's programme of reform of the Organization continued, with actions centred around the UN system's role in addressing the core challenges of development. In a report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the Secretary-General considered issues relating to the use of monitoring, evaluation and reporting by the UN system, and stressed the importance of integrating and aligning UN development policies with the priorities and strategies of national Governments. In January, the Millennium Project, an independent advisory body commissioned by the Secretary-General in 2002, issued its final report on strategies for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A Development Cooperation Forum was established to review global, regional, and national strategies and policies for development cooperation and to provide guidance on the matter.

During the year, the Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) established in 2004 to investigate the oil-for-food-programme issued several reports on its findings, including a September report on the programme's management. In response to the recommendations contained in the report, as well as the decisions of the General Assembly taken at its High-level Plenary meeting in September, action was taken to introduce reforms, such as the establishment of a new Ethics Office to serve as a focal point within the UN Secretariat for issues including financial disclosure, the protection of staff against retaliation for reporting misconduct, and the development of standards, training and education on ethics issues. Other changes in the UN's structure included the replacement of the Accountability Panel with the Management Performance Board, which would advise the Secretary-General on matters concerning the performance of individual senior managers, and the creation of an Audit Advisory Committee to assist the Secretary-General in his oversight responsibilities. A review of UN system governance arrangements, including an external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system, was to be conducted. The Assembly also adopted measures to strengthen its functioning.

Programme of reform

General aspects

In his annual report on the work of the Organization [A/61/1], the Secretary-General stated that, since 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1389], when an ongoing UN reform package was first established, much of his reform agenda had been implemented. Changes had been made to work programmes, structures and systems, both at Headquarters and in the field, but not all reforms had been accepted by Member States and the Organization needed to continue to improve. Noting that Member States at the 2005 World Summit had reaffirmed their commitment to a more efficient and effective United Nations (see p. 63), the Secretary-General addressed issues relating to the Organization's intergovernmental machinery, as well as the Secretariat, its mandates, cooperation with regional organizations and system-wide coherence.

During 2005, reforms of the Secretariat included the introduction of measures to strengthen accountability and improve ethical conduct in the Organization. An Ethics Office was established in December (see p. 1476) to administer new policies on protection for reporting misconduct and financial disclosure, and procurement reforms efforts were validated by an independent review conducted by the United States National Institute of Government Purchasing. Following the revelation of criminal misconduct concerning a UN procurement official, the Secretary-General ordered a complete review of internal and financial controls. Two senior management committees were created to improve executive decision-making and a Management Performance Board established to improve senior managerial accountability.

To strengthen and update the UN programme of work, leaders at the World Summit, responding to the Secretary-General's proposal contained in his report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (see p. 67), requested the General Assembly and other relevant organs to review all mandates that were older than five years. They also supported a stronger relationship between the United Nations

and regional and subregional organizations and resolved to expand cooperation with such organizations. At the sixth high-level meeting with the heads of regional organizations, convened in July (see p. 96), a standing committee was established to provide overall guidance to the process of creating a more structured relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations. The World Summit outcome document also called for stronger UN system-wide coherence, in particular across development-related organizations, agencies, funds and programmes (see p. 65). It requested the Secretary-General to further strengthen the management and coordination of UN operational activities, as well as the governance, management and coordination of the Organization.

Agenda for change

Strengthening of the UN system

Report of the Secretary-General to the 2005 World Summit

In his March report "In larger freedom" (see p. 67), the Secretary-General noted that most of the reform elements contained in his 2002 "agenda for further change" [YUN 2002, p. 1353] had been implemented, resulting in a thoroughly revised programme budget for 2004-2005; a shorter, more efficient cycle of planning and budgeting for the 2006-2007 biennium; a reduction in the quantity of reports and meetings; and a greater integration of human rights elements in the work of the UN country teams. However, as progress in a number of other areas had been slow, the Secretary-General launched, in 2005, a two-track package of Secretariat reform: one to be pursued under his own authority; and another to be taken up in the context of the wider proposals contained in the report. The measures set for immediate implementation included initiatives to address serious concerns raised by UN staff in an integrity perception survey, the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry Committee investigating the oil-for-food programme (see p. 1475), and to improve the performance of senior management, enhance oversight and accountability and ensure ethical conduct and transparency.

In 2005, the Senior Management Group, an internal information-sharing and coordination tool established in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1390], was replaced with two smaller senior committees—one for policy issues and the other for management reform matters. A more transparent system for the selection of new UN leaders was introduced,

using an open selection process based on predetermined criteria, and a more structured system of induction put in place to ensure that senior officials were properly briefed on UN rules, regulations, codes of conduct and managerial systems. To address the need for better tools to ensure accountability, a Management Performance Board was created to assess the performance of individual managers and advise the Secretary-General on corrective action where necessary. A new Oversight Committee was also established to ensure that appropriate management action was taken to implement the recommendations of the various oversight bodies.

The Organization was moving ahead to strengthen ethical conduct, including introducing a new policy for the protection of whistleblowers and taking swift and appropriate disciplinary action against all proven cases of sexual misconduct. Measures to improve training, impose a new standard of conduct, establish credible complaint mechanisms and review welfare and recreational needs for personnel in the field were also underway, as were the introduction of a more expansive requirement for financial disclosure by senior officials and the better dissemination of code of conduct requirements. The Organization was also developing a clear and consistent policy for sharing different categories of UN information, which would increase transparency, while ensuring confidentiality. Alongside the proposed review of all mandates older than five years, the Secretary-General proposed a one-time buy-out for UN personnel whose skills and profiles no longer matched the needs of the Secretariat, and asked the General Assembly to approve a thorough review of all budgetary and human resources rules governing the Secretariat.

In the World Summit outcome document, world leaders asked the Secretary-General to submit, in early 2006, proposals for implementing management reforms to the Assembly for consideration and decisions in those areas of identified need (see p. 65).

Implementation of the Millennium Declaration

Reports of Secretary-General. In a May report to the Economic and Social Council [E/2005/56], the Secretary-General identified core issues relevant to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), first elaborated in the section of the UN Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49] that dealt with development and poverty eradication [ibid., p. 51], and reviewed progress made in implementing those

Goals. The MDGs, which were eight in number, were to eradicate extreme hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development.

Noting that the achievement of the MDGs and the implementation of the wider development agenda were interlinked, the report also reviewed progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes and commitments of major UN development conferences and summits. It highlighted the core challenges addressed by those meetings, including eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition; advancing education and literacy; providing health services, preventing disease and reducing mortality; promoting gender equality and empowering women; promoting employment; achieving social integration and addressing vulnerabilities of social groups; ensuring environmental sustainability and managing the natural resource base for development; promoting democracy, good governance and human rights; and addressing challenges of countries with special needs. Key instruments essential for the implementation of the MDGs—strengthening global partnership for development, making macroeconomic policies work for sustained employment-generating economic growth, promoting science and technology for development and enhancing the role of civil society and the private sector in development—were also examined. Those areas would serve as tools for developing integrated policy frameworks at the national and international levels, strengthening direct linkages with strategies to achieve the MDGs, and facilitating effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the UN development agenda. The Secretary-General addressed the progress and gaps in the implementation of each of the core challenges highlighted in the report and considered the key instruments for achieving the UN development agenda.

The Secretary-General concluded that progress in the implementation of the development agenda had been made in several areas but was slow and uneven. Given the current pace, neither the MDGs, nor the broader UN development agenda, would be achieved, unless both were truly embraced at the national and international levels, backed by practical targets and long-term commitments; sectorial approaches to development replaced by a more integrated, synergistic and holistic framework; the necessary resources invested in pursuit of the agenda; institutional

impediments at the national and international levels addressed; and constant monitoring and evaluation arrangements put in place to ensure that the process remained on track.

He outlined the principles guiding the implementation of the comprehensive UN development agenda, which included undertaking development and investment strategies, identifying and assessing needs, vulnerabilities and capacities; recognizing and building on interlinkages within the system; making the process participatory and inclusive; mainstreaming the broader development objectives into macroeconomic policy; enhancing the role of civil society and the private sector in development; strengthening the role of science and technology; ensuring resources and international partnership for achieving the development agenda; and monitoring, evaluating and reporting in order to measure progress, identify impediments and take corrective actions.

To achieve the comprehensive UN development agenda, UN system organizations had to integrate and align fully their policies and programmes with the priorities of national Governments, international commitments and the agreed goals and targets embodied in that agenda, including the MDGs; develop coherent and integrated system-wide approaches to the achievement of key development objectives, which could be translated into national policies and strategies; design UN operational activities at the country level to support such strategies; strengthen the linkages between that work and the normative work of the Organization; and coordinate with other actors in the field.

At the intergovernmental level, there should be a coherent, coordinated and integrated monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the development agenda. The Secretary-General recommended that the Economic and Social Council review progress in the implementation of the UN development agenda, particularly the MDGs, with a view to strengthening the system's capacity for a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of its implementation and promoting effective policies and strategies at all levels. Towards that end, the Council should organize peer reviews of progress. An existing meeting or segment of the Council could be transformed once every two years into a Development Cooperation Forum, where global, regional and national strategies and policies for development cooperation could be reviewed and policy guidance provided. The Council should pursue a continuous policy dialogue within the UN system to enhance policy coherence, coordination and cooperation. It should mount coordinated responses to natural disasters

and other actual or imminent threats to development and provide timely inputs or address developments in other forums that had major implications for achieving the development goals.

By **decision 2005/222** of 6 July, the Council noted the Secretary-General's report.

CEB action. The High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), at its ninth session (Rome, Italy, 23-25 February) [CEB/2005/4], discussed the 2005 review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. It reviewed progress in the elaboration of a CEB report on the UN system response to the Declaration. It had before it a revised draft of that report, an updated annex on major collaborative initiatives to support the implementation of the Declaration and a summary of comments and suggestions by HLCP members on the draft. A revised version of the draft report was to be prepared for the April session of CEB, as part of the preparations for the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the discussions leading to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (World Summit). The report would also be brought to the attention of relevant agency governing bodies. HLCP established a task force to pursue a 2004 proposal [YUN 2004, p. 1364] of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to enhance the role of the UN system in economic development as a means of advancing the achievement of the MDGs. The task force should report in September and submit a final report in 2006.

CEB, at its first 2005 regular session (Mont Pèlerin, Switzerland, 9 April) [CEB/2005/1], in considering follow-up to the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49], discussed the Secretary-General's report to the World Summit entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (see p. 67). The HLCP Chairman briefed CEB on the HLCP report entitled "One United Nations—catalyst for progress and change", the main purpose of which was to illustrate how the UN system had responded to the Millennium Declaration and the ways in which the follow-up to the Declaration was contributing to greater coherence and effectiveness in the system's work. CEB also considered UN system support for Africa's development, highlighting the challenges of mobilizing adequate resources to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (see p. 1003) and the implementation of the MDGs in Africa. CEB took note of the HLCP report "One United Nations" and endorsed its conclusions.

Final report of Millennium Project. In March [A/59/727], the Secretary-General transmitted an

overview of the final report of the Millennium Project entitled *Investing in Development: A practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals* (see p. 70), prepared by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, the Secretary-General's special adviser on the MDGs, who had been commissioned to conduct research to map out how those goals, based on the Millennium Declaration, could be achieved. The report was submitted to the 2005 World Summit.

(For the General Assembly's review of the Millennium Declaration, see chapter on the 2005 World Summit on p. 47.)

Managerial reform and oversight

Management reform

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/275 [YUN 2004, p. 1401], the Secretary-General, in a September report [A/60/342], examined the efforts of the Department of Management to improve its practices and reviewed the implementation of measures to reduce duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in UN administrative processes and procedures. Management improvement measures, which were in various stages of implementation, focused on improved practices in centralized support services, human resources management and budgetary and financial management. With regard to centralized support services, the Department of Management had implemented an automatic space management system for updating office space floor plans; an automated asset management system; a vehicle usage system; a requisition tracking system; inter-agency system for contracts; a global airline agreement for UN organizations, funds and programmes; a website for registering potential vendors, called the United Nations Global Marketplace; strengthened computer network operations; improved information and communication technology risk management; a reorganization of the UN Postal Administration; and the extension of the UN Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) to all peacekeeping missions.

Human resources management improvements centred around the implementation of a generic job profiles project intended to streamline vacancy announcements through a global database; new human resource data reports; an Electronic Performance Appraisal System (e-PAS); human resource action plans; and other projects. The Department's Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts had improved a number of practices in the budget process, banking procedures and capacities, financial reporting and fi-

nancial services to staff. Among other measures, it accomplished the linkage of the 2006-2007 budget with the biennial programme plan (see p. 1489), began providing system-wide access to pertinent budgetary information through the UN Intranet and was implementing a treasury banking project to assist peacekeeping missions.

The Secretary-General reviewed the implementation status of the efficiency measures recommended by OIOS and proposed time frames for their final implementation. Among those measures, the Procurement Service and DPKO were developing a common procurement management system to improve the efficiency and oversight of the Secretariat's global procurement activities. Legal requirements for the project had been initiated and would be submitted to the Information and Communications Technology Board Project Review Committee by the end of 2005. The proposed automation of the UN travel process had been given priority status by the IMIS User Group. A "My UN" portal was initiated in 2004, providing staff members with access to vacancy applications, emergency contact recordings and other human resources materials.

Managing for results

Note by Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, by a February note [A/59/617/Add.1], transmitted his comments and those of CEB on the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report on managing for results in the UN system [YUN 2004, p. 1372]. In its general comments, CEB found the JIU report to be useful and a valuable reference from a system-wide perspective. It was in broad agreement with the findings and conclusions. However, the two main recommendations on the use of benchmarks for measuring progress towards the effective implementation of results-based-management in respective UN system organizations, and that CEB should pay more attention to harmonizing that implementation, should be considered in the light of specific situations and requirements of the organizations of the system, as well as in relation to the inter-agency mechanisms in place within the CEB framework. While agreeing in principle with the practical benefits of utilizing benchmarks, the Secretary-General said that each organization should adapt them to its particular circumstances, programmes and outputs before they could be applied.

Procurement

By a March note [A/59/721], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a JIU report reviewing procurement practices with-

in the UN system [YUN 2004, p. 1365]. In a June addendum [A/59/721/Add.1], he further transmitted his comments and those of CEB on the report. CEB was in general agreement with JIU's findings and recommendations concerning the rationalization processes, establishment of unified reporting and accountability, training of staff, use of procurement manuals, common services, electronic methods and capacity-building in public procurement agencies in recipient countries.

The Assembly also considered the OIOS reports on the audit of safeguarding air safety standards while procuring air services for UN peacekeeping missions [YUN 2004, p.101] and on the audit of the functioning of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts [YUN 2003, p. 1386].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 13 April [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/59/652/Add.1], adopted **resolution 59/288** without vote [agenda item 107].

Procurement reform

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/14 of 29 October 1999, 55/247 of 12 April 2001 and 57/279 of 20 December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform, the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of safeguarding air safety standards while procuring air services for the United Nations peacekeeping missions and on the audit of the functioning of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts,

A. Report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in addressing the concerns expressed in its resolution 57/279 and the recent significant improvements made by the Secretary-General in procurement reform at Headquarters and in the field missions;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the progress achieved in the harmonization and streamlining of procurement practices;

4. *Calls upon* the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to continue their efforts with a view to improving the efficiency of procurement by reducing duplication and harmonizing the procurement procedures in the United Nations system as a whole, in close cooperation with the Procurement Service of the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage all the organizations of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates, to further improve their procurement practices, inter alia, by participating in the United Nations Global Marketplace

with a view to creating one common United Nations global procurement web site;

6. *Notes* the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group and of the Common Services Procurement Working Group on enhancing the transparency and increasing the harmonization of procurement practices, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, to continue work in this regard;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to simplify and streamline the vendor registration process and to share responsibilities among the various United Nations organizations;

8. *Notes* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to increase procurement opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to simplify the vendor registration process, taking into account access to the Internet;

(b) To take further steps to sensitize the business community to procurement opportunities within the United Nations system, inter alia:

- (i) The holding of additional business seminars;
- (ii) Inviting the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group to hold more meetings in developing countries;
- (iii) Including the issue of "Diversity of sources of procurement" as an agenda item at the annual meetings of the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group;

9. *Notes also* the recent introduction of the principle of best value for money in relation to procurement, and requests the Secretary-General, when applying this principle, to continue safeguarding the financial interests of the Organization, consider best practices and ensure that adequate records are kept;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly an overview and general analysis of the functioning of the principle of best value for money, within the framework of his regular reporting on procurement reform;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to implement measures to reduce the time line associated with invoice payment;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to issue ethical guidelines without delay for those involved in the procurement process, requests that those guidelines be shared with Member States through the procurement web site, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General for the early adoption of a code of conduct for vendors and a declaration of ethical responsibilities for all staff involved in the procurement process;

13. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group to continue its efforts to produce comprehensive and generally applicable statistics encompassing the procurement activities of all United Nations entities;

14. *Welcomes* the training programmes for United Nations procurement staff that the Procurement Service has initiated, including in the field, and requests the Secretary-General to support these programmes and to evaluate and monitor their impact;

15. *Notes* the promotion by the Procurement Service of the voluntary principles of the corporate social

responsibility initiative, the Global Compact, within the United Nations procurement framework, and requests the Secretary-General, as appropriate, to report to the General Assembly for further consideration;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the comments and observations of the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to ensure that information regarding the accountability factor within the procurement reform framework is provided in the next report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that consistent non-compliance and poor performance by vendors is recorded and that appropriate action is taken with respect to their inclusion in the list of vendors;

18. *Takes note* of the agreements made with major companies, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to ensure adherence to the rules and procedures governing the procurement process and to enable more active participation by all vendors;

19. *Notes* the increase in the number of ex post facto cases, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate action in order to minimize that practice to those cases which fully comply with the criteria of exigency;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his next report on procurement reform, to provide information on the implementation of the new delegations of authority, including mechanisms used to strengthen effective monitoring, oversight and accountability;

21. *Notes* the Secretary-General's plan to provide purchasing cards to departments and offices for the procurement of low-value items, and requests the Secretariat to develop strong internal control mechanisms that will safeguard against misuse, after consulting with the Office of Internal Oversight Services and outside organizations experienced in administering purchase card programmes.

B. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of safeguarding air safety standards while procuring air services for the United Nations peacekeeping missions

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of safeguarding air safety standards while procuring air services for the United Nations peacekeeping missions;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as recommended in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight, to fully document the reasons for not following up on the recovery of liquidated damages for contracts and to apply consistent methods to the collection of liquidated damages from vendors;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure compliance with the standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization within the framework of the policy of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat regarding the chartering of civilian registered aircraft, with the objective of ensuring the highest level of air safety when providing air services to the United Nations;

4. *Notes with concern* the delay and difficulties experienced in recruiting and appointing aviation safety officers in some peacekeeping operations, and requests

the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to fill the vacancies expeditiously;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the limited number of site visits by aviation experts to operational bases of air carriers, to ensure that experts are able to conduct the necessary technical assessment of vendors;

6. *Notes with concern* that occurrences attributed to specific vendors were not included in the vendor performance reports, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure that such occurrences are reflected in the appropriate vendor performance reports;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations communicates the information on vendor performance to all aviation offices involved and the Procurement Service.

C. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the functioning of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the functioning of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review without delay options to better safeguard the independence of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts, including the option identified in recommendation 1 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to examine the appropriateness of the current threshold for the review of procurement cases by the Headquarters Committee on Contracts with a view to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the functioning of the Committee, taking into account the development of the delegation of authority to the field offices as described in paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and to report on action taken to the General Assembly in the context of the next report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform.

Oversight

Internal oversight

Appointment of Under-Secretary-General. In April [A/59/109], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of his proposal to appoint Inga-Britt Ahlenius (Sweden) as Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services for one fixed term of five years. The effective date of the appointment would be communicated to the Assembly later.

By **decision 59/418** of 5 May, the Assembly approved the appointment, beginning on 15 July 2005 and ending on 14 July, 2010.

In later addendum [A/59/109/Add.1], the Secretary-General confirmed those dates.

OIOS activities. In September, the Secretary-General transmitted the eleventh annual report of OIOS covering its activities from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 [A/60/346 & Corr.1]. During that period, OIOS issued several reports, which the

Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly. In addition to reports on its own activities, those issued in 2005, were on: proposals on the strengthening and monitoring of programme performance and evaluation [A/60/73]; a review of operational capacity of United Nations Military Observers [A/59/764]; an audit of field security management [A/59/702]; an audit of mission subsistence allowance policies and procedures [A/59/698]; an investigation into allegations of sexual exploitation/abuse in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) [A/59/661]; inspection of programmes and administrative management of the subregional office of the Economic Commission for Africa [A/60/120]; audit of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women [A/60/281]; audit of the Capital Master Plan [A/60/288]; audit of the utilization and management of funds for strengthening the security and safety of UN premises [A/60/291]; review of effectiveness of military information management in peacekeeping operations [A/60/596]; and review of military involvement in civil assistance in peacekeeping operations [A/60/588]. OIOS reports transmitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) were on: an evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the Millennium Declaration [E/AC.51/2005/2]; an in-depth evaluation of UN-Habitat [E/AC.51/2005/3]; a triennial review of the implementations made by CPC at its forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council support and coordination [E/AC.51/2005.4]; and a triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by CPC at its forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs [E/AC.51/2005/5].

During the period under review, OIOS issued 2,167 recommendations to improve accountability mechanisms, internal controls and organizational efficiency and effectiveness, 779, or approximately 43.5 per cent of which were classified as critical. The overall implementation rate for all recommendations during the reporting period was approximately 50 per cent. As at 30 June 2005, the implementation of 34 recommendations issued in 2001/2002 (including two critical), 28 recommendations issued in 2002/2003 (including seven critical) and 124 recommendations issued in 2003/2004 (including 35 critical) had not yet started. The Office identified a total of \$35.1 million in recommended savings, \$18 million of which was actually saved and recov-

ered. Approximately \$3 million was identified as loss or waste of resources.

The report highlighted the oversight results of various risk areas, including management of peacekeeping operations; safety and security; human resources management; administration and finance; procurement; information and communication technology; programme management; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund and the UN Compensation Commission. During the reporting period, OIOS undertook a comprehensive risk assessment of the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, in collaboration with Secretariat departments and UN funds and programmes. It was working with DPKO to ensure that serious cases of misconduct identified in MONUC were handled swiftly, in collaboration with troop-contributing countries. It conducted audits of procurement by peacekeeping missions and the risks associated with the capital master plan on the refurbishment of the UN Secretariat (see p. 1494). Investigations conducted dealt with allegations of corrupt behaviour by UN staff; accountability for theft of UN property; and collusion between UN staff and vendors. OIOS initiated a working group which prepared the drafts for the Organization's first whistleblower protection policy and conducted a thematic evaluation of poverty eradication. It collaborated with JIU to report to the General Assembly on strengthening the results-based management culture, produced a tutorial and glossary on the issue, and conducted training to enhance programme performance monitoring and reporting.

By **decision 60/551** of 23 December, the General Assembly deferred until its resumed sixtieth (2006) session consideration of the Secretary-General's report on OIOS activities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 13 April [meeting 91], the General Assembly, having considered the OIOS report on strengthening the investigative function in the United Nations [YUN 2004, p. 1374], adopted, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/59/652/Add.1], **resolution 59/287** without vote [agenda item 107].

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the investigation functions in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999 and 59/272 of 23 December 2004, establishing the Office of Internal Oversight Services and its operational independence,

Recalling also its resolutions 57/282 of 20 December 2002 and 58/268 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the investigation functions in the United Nations,

Noting that independent investigation is in the best interests of the Organization,

Noting also that violations of the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules and Staff Regulations and Rules and administrative instructions are considered misconduct and call for disciplinary action,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the investigation functions in the United Nations;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the principle of separation, impartiality and fairness on the part of those with responsibility for investigation functions;

3. *Re-emphasizes also* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services is the internal body entrusted with investigation in the United Nations;

4. *Notes* the need to enhance the capacity of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to conduct its mandated investigation functions efficiently;

5. *Recognizes* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services has established an efficient mechanism to enable all staff members and other persons engaged in activities under the authority of the Organization to convey directly their allegations to the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

6. *Stresses* that sexual exploitation and abuse constitute serious misconduct and fall under category I;

7. *Notes* that sexual harassment constitutes a serious concern to Member States, and, bearing in mind paragraph 12 of the present resolution, notes that the Office of Human Resources Management and programme managers may be entrusted to conduct investigations in this context;

8. *Decides* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services may entrust trained programme managers to conduct investigations on its behalf;

9. *Also decides* that in cases of serious misconduct and/or criminal behaviour, investigations should be conducted by professional investigators;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the proposals of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to increase basic investigation training, as appropriate, for the handling of minor forms of misconduct, to develop written procedures for the proper conduct of investigations and to promote the concept of an independent investigation function within the United Nations;

11. *Decides* that the results of investigation conducted by programme managers should be reported to the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish an administrative mechanism for the mandatory reporting by programme managers of allegations of misconduct to the Office of Internal Oversight Services and to report on the establishment of such a mechanism to the General Assembly at the resumed part of its sixtieth session;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the introduction of a mandatory reporting mechanism will not adversely affect the right of an individual staff member to report cases of allegations of misconduct directly to the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that where poor management practice is a contributory factor in cases of misconduct, appropriate managerial action is taken by the Office of Human Resources Management;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that an appropriate mechanism is in place to protect staff members who report misconduct within the Secretariat against retaliation;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that, in case of proven misconduct and/or criminal behaviour, disciplinary action and, where appropriate, legal action in accordance with the established procedures and regulations will be taken expeditiously, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that Member States are informed on an annual basis about all actions taken;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all staff of the Organization are informed of the most common examples of misconduct and/or criminal behaviour and their disciplinary consequences, including any legal action, with due regard to the protection of the privacy of the staff member(s) concerned;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that when conclusions of the Office of Internal Oversight Services are disputed by a programme manager, appropriate action will be taken to resolve the dispute and that information thereon will be included in the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

External oversight

JIU activities. In its annual report to the General Assembly [A/61/34], JIU gave an overview of its activities in 2005, during which it issued reports on: review of management and administration in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) [JIU/REP/2005/1]; measures to improve overall performance of the UN system at the country level [JIU/REP/2005/2]; policies of UN system organizations towards the use of open source software in the secretariats [JIU/REP/2005/3] and in development [JIU/REP/2005/7 & Corr. 1]; a common payroll for UN system organizations [JIU/REP/2005/4]; review of management, administration and activities of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [JIU/REP/2005/5]; external review of the implementation of strategic budgeting within a results-based framework in the International Labour Organization [JIU/REP/2005/6]; further measures to strengthen UN system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development [JIU/REP/2005/8]; and common services in Vienna: Vienna Buildings Management Services [JIU/REP/2005/9]. It had also issued two notes on the review of the implementation of results-based management in the Pan American Health Organization [JIU/NOTE/2005/1] and review of the management of the United Nations *laissez-passer* [JIU/NOTE/2005/2].

During 2005, JIU's activity was marked by ongoing efforts to improve its method of work and the quality and relevance of its reports. The Unit continued to enhance its procedures for the selection of topics for the annual programme of work. It fine-tuned the methodology for management assessments of participating organizations and completed an additional seven assessments in 2005. To date, 14 assessments had been finalized, with nine planned for completion in 2006. In order to better determine and report on the impact of its recommendations, the Unit adopted a system which defined different categories of impact.

The Unit was revising its follow-up system in order to gather further information on the implementation status of accepted recommendations and the impact achieved. It continued to seek synergies with the work of OIOS and other oversight bodies.

Annexed to the report was the JIU work programme for 2006.

By **decision 60/551** of 23 December, the Assembly deferred until its resumed sixtieth (2006) session consideration of the JIU report for 2004 and its programme of work for 2005 [YUN 2004, p. 1372].

On the same date, by section XVI of **resolution 60/248** (see p. 1496), the Assembly approved the gross budget for JIU for the biennium 2006-2007 in the amount of \$10,511,100.

Appointment of JIU members. By **decision 59/416 A** of 28 April, the Assembly appointed Juan Luis Larrabure as a member of JIU for a period of office beginning on 28 April 2005 and expiring on 31 December 2008, to replace Christopher Thomas, who had resigned.

In an August note [A/59/889], the Assembly President transmitted to the Assembly the names of four candidates for appointment as members of the Unit for a five-year term beginning on 1 January 2006 and expiring on 31 December 2010.

By **decision 59/416 B** of 24 August, the Assembly appointed those members.

Oil-for-food programme: Reports of Independent Inquiry Committee

The oil-for-food programme, established by Security Council resolution 986(1995) [YUN 1995, p. 475] authorizing the sale of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products as a temporary measure to finance humanitarian assistance, thereby alleviating the adverse consequences of the sanctions regime imposed by the Council, was phased out on 21 November 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 362]. In April 2004, following public news reports and commentaries that had called into question the

administration and management of the programme, including allegations of fraud and corruption, the Secretary-General established an independent high-level inquiry committee (IIC) on the matter [YUN 2004, p. 364].

During 2005, the IIC, headed by Paul A. Volcker, issued several reports on its findings: a February interim report on the initial procurement of UN contractors, Benon Sevan and oil allocations, internal programme audits and management of the programme's administrative account; a March interim report on the 1998 procurement of the humanitarian goods inspection contract and other conduct of UN officials; an August interim report on the conduct of Benon Sevan and Alexander Yakovlev; the Committee's main report, as well as the report of the Committee's independent working group to examine the impact of the programme on the Iraqi people, both issued in September; and an October report documenting the manipulation of the oil-for-food programme by Saddam Hussein. The first part of the main report issued in September gave an outline of the history of the programme, its framework and the key actors; examined the approval of contracts, the schemes to derive illicit income and the response of the Security Council; maladministration of the programme; the role of UN agencies in the three northern Governates; administrative costs; and control and oversight. Part two of the report examined the sources and amounts of illicit income to Iraq, including illicit payments on contracts, illicit income from smuggling, the impact of distorted prices and a summary of illicit income earned. The report, also contained the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.

IIC found that the Security Council had struggled in clearly defining the broad purposes, policies and administrative control of the programme, leaving too much initiative and decision-making to the Iraqi regime, while retaining substantial elements of administrative, and therefore operational control. When questions of conflict between political objectives and administrative effectiveness arose, decisions were delayed, bungled, or avoided. The administrative and personnel structures of the programme were not adequate and the Organization and its Secretary-General needed a stronger structure at the top. Most notable among the administrative failures of the programme were an absence of effective controls and audits, and a palpable absence of authority and clear reporting lines, particularly in the Secretariat's senior management. Instances of corruption identified by the Committee reflected control weaknesses in the programme. A lack of effective coordination among

UN agencies was also highlighted as there was no simple way to accurately track programme expenditures across agency lines.

Following its analysis, the Committee made a series of major recommendations to the UN system. It proposed the creation of the position of Chief Operating Officer, appointed by the Assembly and reporting to the Secretary-General, with authority over all aspects of administration; establishment of an Independent Oversight Board, which would have functional responsibility for all audits, investigation and evaluation activities, both external and internal across the UN Secretariat and agencies funded by the organization; improvement of coordination and the oversight framework for cross-agency programmes, including by establishing a high-level coordinating body for all major cross-agency relief and emergency programmes, ensuring that each programme had consolidated financial statements that were subject to external and internal audit, and other measures; reform and improvement of management performance, including through mandating periodic, high-level reviews of internal management review processes and through an overhaul of the management hiring, promotion, evaluation, and reward methodology, basing each on key tasks and agreed measures of performance; and the expansion of conflict-of-interest and financial disclosure requirements to lower levels of management. The Committee also proposed that agencies involved in the programme should return up to \$50 million in excess compensation secured as a result of work performed under Security Council resolution 1483(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 338].

(See p. 435 for details on the Security Council's consideration of IIC findings.)

On 15 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/60/250/Add.3], decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session an item on the follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the UN oil-for-food programme.

Implementation of 2005 World Summit decisions relating to oversight

In November [A/60/568 & Corr.1, 2], the Secretary-General, as requested in General Assembly resolution 60/1 (see p. 48) on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, presented his proposals for the establishment of an ethics office; a comprehensive review of governance arrangements, including an independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system; and

the creation of an independent audit advisory committee.

The ethics office, whose objective would be to assist the Secretary-General in ensuring that all staff members observed and performed their functions with the highest standards of integrity, had as its main responsibilities: to administer the Organization's financial disclosure programme; undertake responsibilities assigned it under the UN policy for the protection of staff against retaliation for reporting misconduct; provide confidential advice and guidance to staff on ethical issues; and develop standards, training and education on ethics issues, in coordination with the Office of Human Resources Management. The Office would report regularly to the Secretary-General, giving an overview of its activities and any evaluations and assessments conducted. It would not replace existing mechanisms for reporting misconduct or the resolution of grievances.

The ethics office, which would be the focal point on ethics issues for the global UN Secretariat, would be headquartered in New York, with liaison offices in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. The head of the office would be appointed at the level of Assistant Secretary-General for a fixed, non-renewable five-year term.

The Secretary-General also submitted the terms of reference for the comprehensive review of governance arrangements, including an independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system within the United Nations and its funds, programmes and specialized agencies. The independent external evaluation to be conducted would consist of a review of best practice governance and oversight structures within the public and private sectors; a comparative analysis of those structures within the UN system; and the development of detailed options for model governance and oversight structures and mechanisms for the UN system. It would review also the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). The evaluation, to be completed in two phases, would identify best international practices and models of governance, oversight and audit within the public and private sectors; study the mission, objectives and mandates of UN system bodies to determine the optimal models of governance and oversight; undertake a review of OIOS to provide a basis for decision-making, with respect to the appropriate level of independence for management; the adequacy of resources compared to its remit, the breadth of its functions, its reporting mechanisms and organization and structure.

Also submitted by the Secretary-General were his proposals for the creation of an independent oversight advisory committee, which he sug-

gested be named the Independent Audit Advisory Committee. The Committee, which would assist the General Assembly in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities, would have as its primary functions to review the OIOS budget and audit work plans, assess its work and effectiveness, and advise on the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services; review the system of internal control and risk management and any material weakness and compliance with corrective action plans; discuss with the United Nations Board of Auditors the audited financial statements, monitor the integrity of those statements and comment on and make input to the workplan of the Board of Auditors; and consider the effectiveness and objectivity of the internal audit process.

On 9 December [A/C.5/60/19], the Assembly President transmitted the Secretary-General's report to the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee for consideration. In his letter, to the Fifth Committee Chairman, the President reported that the Assembly had held informal consultation on the report on 6 and 9 December, at the conclusion of which the co-chairs of the meeting stated that there was strong agreement of the need for comprehensive reform of the Organization and of the urgency of that process. Regarding the three proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report, there was agreement to create the ethics office, the proposal for which would be finalized in the budget process. There was recognition that the independent external review would take place. However questions were raised concerning the advisability of creating the independent advisory committee before completion of that review. As more technical work needed to be done on the latter two proposals, the Secretary-General was requested to submit his report to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The Assembly President should request Fifth Committee to consider the Secretary-General's proposals on an expedited basis and the recommendations brought to the attention of the Assembly by 19 December so that decisions could be made on all three proposals.

The comments of ACABQ on the three proposals were contained in its December report to the Assembly [A/60/7/Add.23].

On 23 December, by section XIII of **resolution 60/248** (see p. 1496), the Assembly approved the resources for the establishment of an ethics office and the conduct of the evaluation study. It decided to establish an Independent Audit Advisory Committee and requested the Secretary-General to propose its terms of reference, ensure coherence with the outcome of the ongoing re-

view of oversight and report to the Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth (2006) session on related resource requirements.

The Ethics Office was established by the Secretary-General's bulletin of 30 December [ST/SGB/2005/22].

Intergovernmental machinery

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

In his March report "In larger freedom" [A/59/2005], submitted to the 2005 World Summit, the Secretary-General addressed the strengthening of the Organization through a series of reform measures. He urged the Heads of State and Government to reform, restructure and revitalize the UN's major organs and institutions, including the General Assembly (see p. 69).

Report of Secretary-General. In June, at its resumed fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly had before it a report of the Secretary-General [A/59/860] on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. The report, submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 58/316 [YUN 2004, p. 1374], outlined the draft programme of work of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly for its sixtieth session.

An addendum to the report [A/59/860/Add.1] contained the status of the documentation for Assembly's the sixtieth session, as at 2 August 2005.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 September [meeting 117], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 59/313** [draft: A/59/L.69/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 52].

A strengthened and revitalized General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work,

Recognizing that the current interdependent international environment requires the strengthening of the multilateral system in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

Recognizing also that the General Assembly is the universal and representative forum comprising all Members of the United Nations,

Recognizing further that, in order to be fully utilized, the General Assembly must fully play its role as set out in the Charter,

Stressing the need to strengthen the role and authority of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter,

Reaffirming also the role and authority of the General Assembly in encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification in accordance with Article 13 of the Charter,

Stressing the need fully to respect and maintain the balance between the principal organs of the United Nations within their respective purviews and mandates, in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming that the plenary meetings of the General Assembly should constitute a forum for high-level policy statements, as well as for the consideration, inter alia, of agenda items of special political importance and/or urgency,

Underscoring the importance of providing adequate resources for the implementation of mandated programmes and activities,

Reaffirming its authority in the consideration of all budgetary issues, as stipulated in the Charter,

Role and authority of the General Assembly

1. *Stresses* the need to demonstrate political will to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly;

2. *Decides*, in the context of further strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly as set out in the Charter of the United Nations:

(a) To convene and organize major thematic debates in order to establish broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States;

(b) To discuss issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 35 of the Charter, where appropriate using the procedures set forth in rules 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

(c) To consider the annual reports as well as special reports of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, and Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, through substantive and interactive debates;

(d) To invite the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern;

(e) To also invite the Security Council to update the General Assembly on a regular basis on the steps it has taken or is contemplating with respect to improving its reporting to the Assembly;

(f) To hold interactive debates on other reports submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Charter;

President of the General Assembly

3. *Decides* to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by:

(a) Authorizing the President of the General Assembly to propose interactive debates on current issues

on the agenda of the Assembly, in consultation with Member States;

(b) Augmenting the resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly from within existing resources, subject to consideration by the Assembly of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to provide for two further additional posts at management and senior levels to be filled on an annual basis following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the sixtieth session of the Assembly;

(c) Making available to the President of the General Assembly adequate office and conference space with a view to enabling the President to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office;

(d) Requesting the Secretary-General to ensure that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol services at Headquarters and at other United Nations duty stations;

Agenda and working methods of the plenary Assembly and the Main Committees

4. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly;

5. *Decides also* that the ad hoc working group shall submit a report with specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the ad hoc working group with the necessary services;

7. *Encourages* the Main Committees to implement in full the provisions contained in paragraph 3 of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, building upon the results of relevant discussions in each Committee;

8. *Encourages* the bureaux of the Main Committees to enhance their cooperation and to learn from each other's best practices;

9. *Requests* the Chairpersons of the Main Committees, at the end of their terms of office, to provide a short report on their observations and "lessons learned" to their immediate successors;

10. *Decides* that time limits on speeches in the plenary Assembly and in the Main Committees shall be applied in accordance with rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

11. *Strongly urges* all officers presiding over meetings of the General Assembly to start such meetings on time;

12. *Encourages* the holding of interactive debates with a view to contributing to intergovernmental decision-making;

13. *Invites* Member States that are aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions that they make in their national capacity on points that have not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consoli-

dated version in all official languages, in print and online;

15. *Recommends* consideration of the use of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the modalities thereof to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

Documentation

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement further the measures set out in paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002 on the consolidation of reports and in paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 58/316, on documentation;

17. *Encourages* Member States, when seeking additional information, to request that they be provided with the information either orally or, if in writing, in the form of information sheets, annexes, tables and the like, and encourages the wider use of this practice;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation and reports are issued well in advance, in keeping with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation simultaneously in all official languages, as set out in resolution 49/221 B of 23 December 1994 and in resolution 59/309 of 22 June 2005 on multilingualism;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a status report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of all resolutions regarding the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 58/126 of 19 December 2003 and 58/316 and the present resolution.

In November, the General Assembly considered a report of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/60/525] on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. The Committee Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to two related documents, regarding the approximate dates for the consideration of items by the Fourth Committee at the Assembly's sixty-first (2006) session [A/C.4/60/WP.1], and the revitalization of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee [A/C.4/60/WP.2].

By **decision 60/526** of 8 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Fourth Committee.

Rotation of the post of Rapporteur of the Third Committee

By **decision 60/538** of 16 December, the General Assembly decided that, in order to rationalize its method of work, the Third Committee should elect its Rapporteur on the basis of their experience and personal competence, as well as the rotation among the regional groups. The Committee should elect a candidate nominated by the Group of Western European and Other States to serve as its Rapporteur at the Assembly's sixty-first (2006) session.

Review of Security Council membership and related matters

The Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council submitted a report on its work during nine formal and four informal meetings held between 7 February and 1 September [A/59/47]. The Working Group considered the oral and written proposals and position papers of various delegations, which had been submitted in previous sessions and were set out in two clusters: cluster I, concerning increase in Security Council membership and related matters, and cluster II, dealing with the working methods of the Council and the transparency of its work. The discussions of the two clusters were summarized in conference room papers contained in annexes to the report.

At its first session (7 February), the Working Group endorsed the appointment of two Vice-Chairpersons. At its second (14 February) session, as well as at the four subsequent informal meetings (14-16 February), the Working Group considered six topics that were later discussed at length: accountability, in particular the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, including reports of the Council to the Assembly; the relationship between the Council and other principal UN organs; consultations with troop-contributing countries; questions concerning the work of sanctions committees, including Article 50 of the Charter; subsidiary organs of the Council; and the question of the use of the veto. At its ninth meeting (1 September), the Working Group considered and adopted its report to the Assembly, including a recommendation that the Assembly adopt a draft decision on the matter.

By **decision 59/566** of 12 September, the Assembly took note of the Working Group's report and urged it to continue to exert efforts during the Assembly's sixtieth session, aimed at achieving progress on all the issues relevant to the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council. It decided that the question should be considered during the Assembly's sixtieth session, and that the Working Group should continue its work, taking into account progress achieved during the Assembly's forty-eighth (1993) and fifty-ninth (2004) sessions and drawing on the experience of the fifty-ninth session, as well as the views to be expressed in the sixtieth session, and report to the Assembly at its sixtieth (2005) session, including any agreed recommendations.

Revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Work of the functional commissions

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, responding to Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/63 [YUN 2004, p. 1379] and earlier resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council, submitted a June report [E/2005/74] on the work of the functional commissions of the Council in 2005. The report focused on the substantive aspects of the commissions' activities and their role in the development and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49]. During the period from 2001 to 2005, the Council's nine functional commissions made contributions towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Council invite the commissions to continue to provide concise, action-oriented input to its substantive session in 2006, including to the Council's assessment of progress in achieving the agreed development goals. The Council should continue to consider the outcomes of the functional commissions on the basis of a thematic consolidated report. It should explore further avenues for promoting greater harmony and thematic unity, including through the conclusion of a multi-year programme and/or an indicative list of common themes. He recommended that the Council encourage a further deepening of collaboration among its commissions in advancing education and literacy. It invited the commissions to clearly identify the operational implications of their work in relation to HIV/AIDS and to bring them to the attention of the governing bodies of the UN funds and programmes for consideration and guidance; and consider ways of promoting closer and more effective overall interaction between the work of the commissions.

In other recommendations, the Council was encouraged to devote one of its coordination sessions to the issue of employment and the realization of the development goals, examine the ways in which the functional commissions were integrating that aspect into their work; stimulate substantive exchanges among its functional commissions on the social integration component of social development; and urge the commissions to mainstream the concept of sustainable development in their work. The Secretary-General further recommended that the Council recognize the development-related contributions of the United Nations Information and Communication Technology Task Force and the need to fur-

ther build on such approaches; encourage Governments and the UN system, notably its commissions, to ensure that science and technology was incorporated into poverty reduction policies and strategies, and urge them to consider ways to strengthen linkages between public research and private industry; request the functional commissions to encourage the launching of multi-stakeholder initiatives on promoting technology transfer and development in the areas of interest to developing countries; and en-

courage its subsidiary bodies to incorporate a gender perspective in their follow-up to major UN conferences and summits, in their examination of their working methods and the development of themes for their multi-year programmes of work.

The Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2005/305** of 27 July, took note of the Secretary-General's report and requested him to submit a consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions in 2006.