

Chapter XI

Children, youth and ageing persons

In 2006, the sixtieth year of its operation, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its work to ensure that every child received the best possible start in life; was fully immunized and protected from disease, including HIV/AIDS, and disability; had access to quality primary school education; and was protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination. In commemoration of UNICEF sixtieth anniversary, the General Assembly adopted a resolution commending the Fund for its work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other international development goals in the interest of children. The Assembly also held a plenary meeting devoted to UNICEF history and accomplishments.

Progress was made towards mainstreaming children's priorities into national policy. Of the 190 countries that had adopted "A world fit for children"—the outcome document of the General Assembly's twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children—177 were engaged in follow-up activities incorporating the goals contained in the document into their planning processes by developing plans of action on children's issues or integrating the goals into mainstream national development plans, or both.

UNICEF began the first year of its medium-term 2006-2009 strategic plan, focusing on the priority areas of young child survival and development; basic education and gender equality; HIV/AIDS and children; child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse; and policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights. UNICEF 2006 income increased by 1 per cent over 2005, with a low but somewhat improved ratio of regular to other resources.

Efforts continued to implement the 1995 World Programme for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. The Economic and Social Council considered the issue of the promotion of youth employment. In a resolution on the subject, the Council urged Governments to consider youth employment as an integral part of overall strategies for development and collective security.

In 2006, UN efforts to implement the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing included plans for its review and appraisal, to commence in 2007, under the theme "Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing". In

December, the Assembly called upon Governments to take a participatory approach throughout the Plan's implementation process and stressed the need for additional capacity-building at the national level.

Children

Follow-up to 2002 General Assembly special session on children

The fourth report [A/61/270] on follow-up to the General Assembly's twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children [YUN 2002, p. 1168], submitted by the Secretary-General in response to Assembly resolution 59/261 [YUN 2004, p. 779], provided an update on progress achieved in realizing the commitments relating to children and young people set out in the Declaration and Plan of Action contained in the session's final document entitled "A world fit for children", adopted in resolution S-27/2 [YUN 2002, p. 1169]. Those commitments focused particularly on health, education, protection from abuse, exploitation and violence, and combating HIV/AIDS.

The number of countries translating those commitments into concrete actions had risen from that of the previous year, with 177 of them engaged in follow-up activities. A total of 47 countries had completed national action plans on children's issues, 99 had incorporated the document's goals into national development plans, and 90 had targeted them explicitly in sectoral plans. The convergence between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51] and those of "A world fit for children" resulted in an increased focus on the health and educational goals of the latter in national plans. At the same time, the issue of child protection continued to be insufficiently addressed. Despite the drafting of new legislation and the undertaking of initiatives regarding violence against children in many countries, public agencies responsible for child protection faced severe resource constraints. As to the impact of the planning goals of "A world fit for children" on national budgets, the link between plan preparation and budgeting processes

needed to be strengthened. In a number of industrialized countries, commitment to those goals and the MDGs had led to increased development assistance in education, basic health services and water supply and sanitation. Governments used intergovernmental mechanisms to follow up on the goals of the special session, and civil society alliances and coalitions continued to work at all levels to promote and support them. Progress towards child-related goals was monitored by the majority of countries, and Governments continued to improve their databases, evaluate progress in plan implementation and develop surveillance systems and other monitoring tools, including the establishment of independent watchdogs, such as observers and ombudsmen. The report outlined the progress achieved in promoting healthy lives, providing quality education, protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence, and combating HIV/AIDS.

Despite the advances made, many obstacles remained to the effective implementation of child-related plans, including weak links between plans and budgets in many countries; weak institutional capacity; natural disasters, conflicts, violence and insecurity; the loss of human resources to the AIDS pandemic; inadequate resources to meet the cost of achieving all the goals of “A world fit for children”; and challenges in the generation of data to support programmes for disadvantaged families and children. The participation of civil society in the follow-up process should be extended from plan preparation to implementation and monitoring, and greater provision made for the participation of children and youth in the full cycle of national planning.

Among the ways forward suggested by the Secretary-General were the establishment of high-level national councils for children, assistance in capacity-building of national children’s agencies, promotion of child-focused national budgets, strengthening of local government agencies, expediting action towards eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016, and facilitating the ongoing involvement of civil society, including children and young people. He noted the positive role played by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see p. 777), and advised that the Committee’s recommendations should take into consideration the experience gained with national plans of action, and the trend in many regions towards increased mainstreaming of children’s issues into other planning processes. Use should be made of the Committee’s concluding observations on State party reports to maintain government and public mobilization with respect to the goals for children, and the UN system should continue to assist Member States in their

follow-up to those observations. Noting that 2007 would mark the mid-decade point of the Assembly’s special session, the Secretary-General said that the review to be undertaken by the Assembly should, among other things, mobilize partners to accelerate progress towards the goals of “A world fit for children”.

General Assembly action. The General Assembly, in **resolution 61/146** (see p. 777), noting the Secretary-General’s reports on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of its twenty-seventh special session, decided to pay particular attention to the protection of the rights of children living in poverty at the commemorative plenary meeting to be held in 2007 devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of that session. The Assembly, in **resolution 61/45** (see p. 1280), encouraged efforts to promote the objectives of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010 (see p. 1279) [YUN 2001, p. 609].

United Nations Children’s Fund

In 2006, UNICEF remained committed to achieving the MDGs, and the goals contained in the outcome document “A world fit for children”, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution S-27/2 [YUN 2002, p. 1169], at its twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children (see above). The two documents, which complemented each other, formed a strategy—a Millennium agenda—for protecting childhood in the twenty-first century. UNICEF work was also guided by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p. 560], and its Optional Protocols (see p. 777). Its mission was to defend children’s rights, help meet their basic needs, ensure their survival and increase their opportunities to flourish. It was also mandated to rally political will and resources to invest in children’s well-being; respond to emergencies to protect children and work with partners to provide a rapid response for those in need; ensure special protection for the most disadvantaged children, such as victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty and all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities. The Fund further aimed to promote equal rights for women and girls and encourage their full participation in developing their communities; and work towards the human development goals adopted by the world community and the peace, justice and social progress enshrined in the United Nations Charter. In line with its 2006-2009 medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) [YUN 2005, p. 1284], UNICEF focused its

work, in 2006, on young child survival and development; basic education and gender equality; HIV/AIDS and children; child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse; and policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights.

UNICEF annual flagship publication, *The State of the World's Children 2006*, highlighted the plight of those children most in need: the poorest, the most vulnerable, the exploited and the abused. As the pledges made in the MDGs and "A world fit for children" remained unfulfilled for such children, the report examined ways to include them in the Millennium agenda. It assessed global efforts to realize the MDGs and demonstrated the marked impact that their achievement would have on the lives of children and future generations. That was illustrated by the fact that the lives of 3.8 million children under the age of five would be saved if the MDGs were met in 2015. The report stated that children denied of their right to a formal identity, and those suffering from child protection abuses or facing early marriage, armed combat and hazardous labour were among those most at risk of exclusion from the Millennium agenda. It cautioned that the focus of the MDGs on national averages put children in marginalized communities at risk of missing out on essential services.

As the world continued to press ahead with policies, programmes and funding to make the vision outlined in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49] a reality, it should not allow those children, who were excluded and marginalized and often invisible, to be forgotten.

In 2006, UNICEF cooperated with 155 countries, areas and territories: 44 in sub-Saharan Africa; 35 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 35 in Asia; 20 in the Middle East and North Africa; and 21 in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Total expenditures, including write-offs, amounted to \$2,343 million (compared to \$2,197 million in 2005), of which 96.5 per cent (\$2,261 million) was for programme assistance and support; 3.2 per cent (\$76 million) for management and administration; and 0.3 per cent (\$7 million) for write-offs. UNICEF operations in 2006 were described in the UNICEF annual report covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2006; the annual report to the Economic and Social Council [E/2007/6]; and the annual report of the Executive Director on progress and achievements against UNICEF's 2006-2009 MTSP [E/ICEF/2007/9].

In 2006, the UNICEF Executive Board held its first regular session (16-20 and 23 January), its annual session (5-9 June) and its second regular session

(6-8 September), all in New York [E/2006/34/Rev.1], during which it adopted 20 decisions.

By **decision 2006/236** of 26 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Board's report on the work of its first, second and annual sessions of 2005 [E/2005/34/Rev.1]; the Board's report on the work of its first regular session of 2006 [E/2006/34/Rev.1]; and the annual report of the Executive Director covering the year 2005 [E/2006/6].

On 8 September, the Executive Board adopted the programme of work and dates for its 2007 sessions [E/2006/34/Rev.1 (dec. 2006/20)].

Sixtieth anniversary of UNICEF

In 2006, UNICEF observed its sixtieth anniversary as a Fund of the United Nations system. Establishment by the General Assembly in 1946 by resolution 57(I) [YUN 1946, p. 163] as the International Children's Emergency Fund to respond to the millions of refugee and displaced children in the aftermath of the Second World War, it evolved over the years to become a development agency committed to tackling hunger, fighting disease and advocating the rights of children all over the world. UNICEF became a permanent Fund in 1953 by Assembly resolution 802(VIII) [YUN 1953, p. 467] and was renamed the United Nations Children's Fund.

In November, UNICEF issued the publication *1946-2006 Sixty Years for Children*, a historical review commemorating its sixtieth anniversary and tracing the evolution of the international cause of helping children since the Second World War.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 28 November [meeting 59], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/61/427], adopted **resolution 61/20** without vote [agenda item 58].

Commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57(I) of 11 December 1946, by which it established the International Children's Emergency Fund, 417(V) of 1 December 1950, by which it affirmed the Fund's decision to devote a greater share of its resources to programmes outside Europe, 802(VIII) of 6 October 1953, by which it changed the name of the organization to the United Nations Children's Fund and removed the time limits from its mandate, 1391(XIV) of 20 November 1959, in which it saw aid provided by the Fund as a practical way to carry out the aims proclaimed in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and 2057(XX) of 16 December 1965, in which it ap-

plauded the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1965 to the United Nations Children's Fund,

Recalling also its resolutions 2855(XXVI) of 20 December 1971, in which it commended the Fund for its very substantial and significant achievements during its twenty-five years of operation, and 51/192 of 16 December 1996, in which it recognized the important contribution of the Fund in promoting the survival, development and protection of children during its first fifty years of operation,

Recalling further its resolutions 33/83 of 15 December 1978 on the International Year of the Child, 44/25 of 20 November 1989 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children and S-27/2 of 10 May 2002 in which it adopted the document entitled "A world fit for children", annexed to that resolution,

1. *Congratulates* the United Nations Children's Fund on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary;

2. *Commends* the United Nations Children's Fund for the substantial assistance it has provided to programme countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other agreed development goals in the interest of children;

3. *Commends* the staff of the United Nations Children's Fund and the National Committees and other partners for their contributions to the substantial achievements of the Fund;

4. *Commends* Member States, civil society organizations and the private sector for the generous financial support of the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund, and invites them to consider increasing their support to the work of the Fund;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, in December 2006, a special commemorative meeting of the Assembly devoted to the sixtieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund.

Assembly's commemorative session

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/20 (above), on 8 December, the Assembly convened a special commemorative meeting devoted to the sixtieth anniversary of the operations of UNICEF [A/61/PV.70].

The Secretary-General, in his statement to the Assembly, said that over the six decades since its establishment, UNICEF advocacy on behalf of children had changed the international discourse, putting a human face on development. Its campaigns for child survival, girls' education and HIV/AIDS had proved to be models of partnership across agencies. Its emergency responses had saved the lives of millions of children caught up in wars and natural disasters; health programmes had saved millions of others from disease, under-nourishment, illnesses and death; and its education programmes had saved millions from trafficking, sexual exploita-

tion, violence and abuse. Currently, UNICEF work to realize the rights of all children was at the heart of efforts to reach the MDGs. The Secretary-General extended profound thanks to the staff and leadership of UNICEF, as well as the national committees and their Goodwill Ambassadors.

The Executive Director of UNICEF spoke of accomplishments achieved over the previous sixty years, including a decrease in under-five mortality rates in developing countries, from 222 deaths to 87 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1960 and 2004; immunization reaching more than 70 per cent of children worldwide, compared to between 10 and 20 per cent in the 1980s; the eradication of smallpox and the declaration of some 175 countries as polio-free; an estimated 1 billion additional people with access to safe water compared to 1990; and increased numbers of children in school, with gender disparities in enrolment narrowing in most parts of the world. She acknowledged, however, that much remained to be done to advance and protect the rights of children in a world in which 10 million children under the age of five still died every year of largely preventable causes; natural disasters, exploitation, famine and hunger continued to undermine peace and stability; at least one child became HIV-positive every minute; and more than 2 billion people lived on \$2 a day or less.

Programme policies

In her annual report to the Economic and Social Council covering 2006 [E/2007/6], the Executive Director described UNICEF actions to implement the MDGs and the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit [YUN 2005, p. 48] by putting more emphasis on partnerships, increasingly integrating its programmes and harmonizing work with other parts of the United Nations. The report also provided information on funding for operational activities and efforts to strengthen national capacity-building; examined financial management, including transaction costs and efficiency; assessed coherence, effectiveness and relevance of operational activities for development; and reported on the evaluation of operational activities and gender mainstreaming. It also discussed follow-up to international conferences and panels, notably the Assembly's special session on children (see p. 1361), and efforts to ensure the visibility of the rights of the girl child through participation in the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1355). The Executive Director concluded that a culture of continual improvement was being established at UNICEF within the process of

UN reform, leading to more efficient and effective programming and advocacy for children and to the creation of measurable results.

Medium-term strategic plan (2006-2009)

The Executive Director, in a report [E/ICEF/2007/9] describing major initiatives taken and progress and results achieved in 2006, the first year of the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) 2006-2009, said that UNICEF had strengthened its emphasis on support, through effective partnerships in five focus areas (see p. 1363), as well as the MDGs and the child-related commitments of the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49]. It had also implemented a series of cross-cutting strategies to sharpen the effectiveness of its partnerships and operations, grounded in human rights-based approaches and gender equality, and reflecting UN reform efforts, results-based management, knowledge generation, the more systematic use of evidence, performance monitoring and operational effectiveness.

Innovations in the first year of the new plan period included the introduction of new indicators for assessing progress, results and organizational performance. Most indicators of programmatic effectiveness showed continued improvement during 2006, and the growth in UNICEF income was sustained. Other major initiatives included intensified, integrated approaches to the delivery of high-impact interventions for health and nutrition, closely linked with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and the fight against HIV/AIDS. UNICEF helped to raise awareness through support to the United Nations study on violence against children (see p. 916), and clear improvements were seen in the protective environment for children in many countries.

However, a range of new challenges had become more evident, including weaknesses in the design of sanitation programmes; the ineffectiveness of some interventions in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami [YUN 2004, p. 952]; and problems of school retention following expanded enrolment. Much remained to be done to increase the use of tested interventions for dramatic improvements in child survival and in strengthening national capacities to deliver and sustain those efforts. UNICEF programme cooperation and procurement services had a critical and strategic role to play in helping countries expand coverage and achieve results. The comprehensive organizational review (see p. 1378) under way was a major effort to diagnose UNICEF strengths and weaknesses and identify strategies to increase effectiveness as a partner in achieving results for children.

Medium-term financial plan (2006-2009)

In September, the Executive Board considered the MTSP: planned financial estimates for the period 2006-2009 [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.6]. UNICEF recommended that the Board approve the framework of planned financial estimates for 2006-2009, including forecast expenditure of \$2,388 million for 2006 and projected expenditure of \$2,719 million for 2009; the preparation of programme expenditure submissions to the Board of up to \$1,500 million from regular resources in 2007, subject to the availability of resources and the continued validity of those planned financial estimates; and the revised annual transfer of \$30 million to the reserve for after-service health insurance for the period 2006-2009.

On 8 September [dec. 2006/15], the Board approved the recommendations.

MTSP support strategies

At its January session, the Board had before it the UNICEF joint health and nutrition strategy for 2006-2015 [E/ICEF/2006/8] and the UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene strategy for 2006-2015 [E/ICEF/2006/6] for endorsement as the official strategy documents of programmes of support in those areas.

On 19 January [dec. 2006/3 and dec. 2006/4], the Board welcomed both strategies and requested the Executive Director to ensure that UNICEF increased its efforts to further develop national capacities to improve sustainable outcomes as outlined in them; ensure that comments thereon by Board members at its first regular session of 2006 were taken into consideration when implementing programmes of support in the areas of health and nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene; and monitor the impact of both strategies on health and nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene through the MTSP assessment process. The Executive Director should ensure that the MTSP review process analysed scientific developments and programming experience in health and nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene and ensure that its findings were taken into consideration when implementing programmes of support in those areas. She should also include in the strategies an annex outlining how they would contribute to the achievement of the MTSP focus areas and key performance indicators, and update those annexes as necessary following agreement on subsequent MTSPs.

The Board, at its annual (June) session, had before it a report [E/ICEF/2006/17 & Corr.1] on the UNICEF post-crisis transition strategy in support of the MTSP, which outlined how the Fund aimed to contribute to transition strategies in order to produce

results for children. UNICEF response to post-crisis transitions was guided by the principles of national ownership, partnerships, capacity development, a bottom-up approach to programming, building back better, gender sensitivity and the participation of children and young people. It would continue to be founded on the Millennium Declaration, the MDGs, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; based on the operational commitments of the Core Commitments for Children in emergencies [YUN 2003, p. 1205]; and linked to the five MTSP focus areas. The report described actions planned or undertaken to strengthen UNICEF capacity for post-crisis transition in the areas of management and coordination; human and financial resources; monitoring and evaluation; and knowledge management and reporting. It recommended that the Board endorse the UNICEF strategy document for its programmes in post-crisis transition situations.

On 9 June [dec. 2006/6], the Board endorsed the UNICEF transition strategy as the support strategy for MTSP programmes in situations of transition from relief to development.

Medium-term strategic plan (2002-2005)

Under the MTSP for 2002-2005, UNICEF submitted to the Executive Board in January, a report on thematic funding [E/ICEF/2006/9]—contributions made by donors based on existing programmes and which were pooled and allocated to achieve the goals of the respective priority areas outside of regular funding. They supported MTSP goals and objectives and allowed for longer-term planning and sustainability. As at 31 October 2005, the total amount of thematic funding received was \$703 million. Between 2003 and 2005, the Government of Norway was the largest contributor to thematic funding, followed by the United States Fund for UNICEF, the Government of Sweden, and the German and United Kingdom Committees for UNICEF. Girls' education and humanitarian response were the largest recipients of thematic funding.

At the annual session in June, the Executive Director submitted a report on results achieved for children in support of the Millennium Summit agenda, through the MTSP (2002-2005) [E/ICEF/2006/11]. The report analysed progress made in the context of MTSP (2002-2005) in the areas of early childhood development; immunization "plus"; girls' education; fighting HIV/AIDS; protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation; and emergency preparedness and response. It also examined UNICEF commitment to UN reform

and partnership initiatives, and highlighted programme management and operational performance; and income, expenditure and resource mobilization.

Evaluation system

In response to a 2004 Executive Board decision [YUN 2004, p. 1180], UNICEF submitted a report on its evaluation function [E/2006/15], which reviewed performance against its 2002-2005 workplan objectives, summarized the evaluations conducted from 2004 to 2005, and identified evaluation challenges in the context of the 2006-2009 MTSP. The report noted that, during the 2002-2005 MTSP period, 1,251 evaluations and 3,106 studies and surveys were conducted in country offices, reflecting an 18 per cent reduction in evaluations and a 26 per cent reduction in studies over the period. From 2004 to 2005, evaluations were conducted in several areas, including HIV/AIDS, community-based child protection initiatives and UNICEF response to humanitarian crises, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. A self-assessment carried out by the Evaluation Office, using United Nations Evaluation Group norms and standards, highlighted UNICEF main strengths, among them, intellectual independence; credibility to clients; participatory and human rights-based approaches; and gender-balanced evaluation teams. Its weaknesses included limited availability of human and financial resources; limited evidence that evaluation findings were used; inconsistent distillation of lessons learned; and insufficient opportunities for professional development.

In the context of the 2006-2009 MTSP, evaluation priorities were identified as national capacity-building and strengthened national leadership in country-level evaluations; strengthening evaluation in humanitarian crises; strengthening evaluation within the UN system and with other partners; evaluation related to MTSP focus areas, strategies and operational effectiveness; strengthening UNICEF organizational capacity in evaluation; and heightened management attention to the evaluation function.

On 9 June [dec. 2006/9], the Executive Board called upon UNICEF to conduct evaluations of operations at the country level in close association with Governments, and assist them in developing national evaluation capacities. It should also prepare a comprehensive evaluation policy for consideration by the Executive Board in 2007; focus more on evaluating the results of the MTSP, country programmes and its humanitarian response; and, beginning in 2008, submit a biennial report on the implemen-

tation of the evaluation policy at various levels of the organization, including evaluation expenditures and funding sources.

Emergency assistance

In 2006, UNICEF response covered 53 emergencies in a wide range of humanitarian crises, from hostilities in the Middle East and the severe drought in the Horn of Africa to an earthquake in Indonesia and “forgotten emergencies” in the Central African Republic and Haiti. The increased funding ceiling of \$75 million for the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) had a significant positive impact on UNICEF’s ability to respond to the acute needs of children and families. In 2006, \$44.5 million was released from the Fund to 29 countries and two regional offices. The emergency preparedness and response plans of some 107 country offices were reviewed and, where necessary, updated. Efforts were also intensified to ensure that offices worldwide were prepared to address the threat of avian flu and human influenza. UNICEF worked closely with other UN agencies to ensure a common approach to such threat, focusing primarily on communication for behavioural change, supply pre-positioning and community-based initiatives.

UNICEF provided the lead for emergency response in water and sanitation, education, nutrition, non-food items, emergency shelter and emergency telecommunications in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), assisting more than 600,000 conflict-affected people with life-saving shelter and household items. It also supported the release and reintegration of almost 10,500 children associated with armed groups and forces, and made substantial efforts to combat sexual violence. In response to severe drought and floods in the Horn of Africa, millions of children were reached through a comprehensive set of interventions, including water treatment and diarrhoea prevention, measles vaccination, vitamin A supplementation and other nutrition initiatives. Despite the dangerous conditions that prevailed in the Sudan’s Darfur region, 1.2 million children received polio vaccination and vitamin A supplementation. The number of conflict-affected children enrolled in primary school increased from an estimated 382,800 to 516,500, including 225,000 girls by the end of the year. Nationally, Sudanese children enjoyed increased access to health care in 2006, and the “Go to School” campaign in southern Sudan saw over 850,000 children registered in schools, supported by UNICEF through the delivery of educational materials and the training of teachers. In neighbouring Chad, UNICEF led the coordination of the UN country team’s humanitarian

actions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), but continued insecurity reduced the international humanitarian presence.

In the Middle East, collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross at the inception of conflict (see p. 576) was crucial in delivering assistance for displaced children and families in otherwise inaccessible areas. UNICEF supported non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to run mobile primary health care units, immunization outlets and child-friendly spaces and to provide psychosocial support, reaching an estimated 300,000 people. Partnerships with NGOs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory also enabled the provision of key humanitarian assistance.

UNICEF continued to respond to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in Sri Lanka. During the crisis in Timor-Leste, its response in the areas of immunization, nutrition screening and water and sanitation helped to avert the deterioration of the health and nutrition status of over 110,000 children and 70,000 IDPs. In the second year of its response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, UNICEF shifted its focus towards support for reconstruction, and assisted some 4.8 million children and women in eight countries. By late 2006, it had supported the reconstruction and renovation of over 50 health facilities and delivered medical equipment to nearly 6,100 hospitals and clinics in affected areas. Over 1 million people had access to safe water sources built with UNICEF support, some 1.2 million children received vitamin A supplements, and almost 1 million women and children were provided with insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) to protect against malaria. Nearly 400,000 children benefited from UNICEF-assisted psychosocial support, and through its intervention, tens of thousands of others were able to study at newly constructed or repaired schools, with over 1 million having received educational supplies for the new school year.

Maurice Pate Award

In June, the Executive Board considered a draft decision on the revision of the Maurice Pate Leadership for Children Award [E/ICEF/2006/16], established in 1966 in memory of UNICEF first Executive Director [YUN 1966, p. 385]. While the purpose and selection criteria of the Award remained valid in most respects, developments since the last revision in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1184], including the emphasis on partnerships to achieve the MDGs and the increased involvement in global movements and initiatives, suggested that a slight revision was timely. The Award would be a valu-

able way of acknowledging and commending key leading individuals and organizations in the global partnership for the achievement of the MDGs, most of which had a direct impact on the condition of children. The revision also sought to simplify the selection process to make it more feasible and manageable by changing the periodicity of the Award from yearly to occasional and allowing the option of bestowing the Award symbolically rather than for monetary value.

On 9 June [dec. 2006/12], the Board amended the procedure related to the objectives and criteria, recipients, nominations, selection, and value for the Award. Under the revisions, the Award would not necessarily be of monetary value but might be bestowed as a symbolic appreciation of an individual's or organization's dedication to the cause of children. When of monetary value, the Award would confer no more than \$50,000 in any one year, the amount to be met from regular resources.

UNICEF programmes by region

In 2006, UNICEF regional programme expenditure totalled \$2,118.6 million, of which \$1,099 million (51.9 per cent) went to sub-Saharan Africa (including programme assistance for Djibouti and the Sudan); \$650 million (30.7 per cent) to Asia; \$147.3 million (7 per cent) to the Middle East and North Africa; \$98.8 million (4.7 per cent) to the Americas and the Caribbean; \$65.3 million (3.1 per cent) to Central and Eastern Europe and CIS; and \$58.3 million (2.8 per cent) to interregional programmes. Programme support costs amounted to an additional \$142 million.

Programme expenditures were highest in countries with low income and high, or very high, under-five mortality rates. The 53 lowest income countries—defined as those with a per capita gross national income of \$875 or less—which had a total child population in 2005 of 1.2 billion, or 52 per cent of all children worldwide, received 64 per cent of total programme expenditures. An estimated 85 per cent of expenditures for young child survival and development were in 60 countries with high under-five mortality rates and/or large numbers of child deaths.

In September [E/2006/34/Rev.1], the Executive Board had before it summaries of the mid-term reviews and major evaluations of country programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.28], West and Central Africa [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.29], the Americas and the Caribbean [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.30], East Asia and the Pacific [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.31], South Asia [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.32],

Central and Eastern Europe and CIS [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.33], and the Middle East and North Africa [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.34]. The reports assessed resources used, constraints faced, adjustments made and results achieved in country programmes. They also examined the rationale for, design of and lessons learned from major evaluations.

(For information regarding the UNICEF country programme approval process, see p. 1377.)

Field visits

The visit of the President of the Executive Board to the Central African Republic (26 February–5 March) [E/ICEF/2006/CRP.8] focused on the implementation of the country programme in relation to the MTSP priorities and the quality of UNICEF coordination and partnership with the Government, UN agencies, donors and civil society. It also provided an important overview of the situation of children's rights in the country and UNICEF contribution to its improvement. The UNICEF programme of cooperation in the country had four main elements: child survival and development, girls' education, HIV/AIDS and child protection. Challenges, such as the prevailing insecurity, insufficient government revenues and destruction of basic social infrastructure, made for a difficult programming environment. While the Government's political will to improve the situation of children was strong, sustained political stabilization and greater international assistance were critical for any lasting developments. Moreover, community mobilization, women's empowerment and participation of young people were key ingredients for community development.

In a joint visit to Indonesia (8–22 March) [E/ICEF/2006/CRP.16], members of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) sought to understand the ways and extent to which the United Nations contributed to the transition from a humanitarian disaster to reconstruction and recovery, following the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami. Board members gained insight into how multilateral agencies worked together at the country level, and paid particular attention to issues relevant to UN reform. They concluded that, although coordination among agencies, funds and programmes was present in Indonesia, the efforts to achieve coordination sometimes outstripped the results. Coordination and collaboration between UN organizations and local authorities was found to be insufficient. The team recommended that UN

organizations should set overall standards across the board for the projects they initiated; UN humanitarian agencies should strengthen their collaboration and cooperation, and seek to make humanitarian operations cost-efficient; and relief and rehabilitation agencies should provide training in entrepreneurship to local communities, especially to women, and extend small grants to participants with feasible business plans.

Executive Board members visited Chad (2-8 April) [E/ICEF/2006/CRP.14] to view UNICEF operations in a humanitarian crisis, having received some 232,000 refugees from the Darfur region of the Sudan and the Central African Republic since 2003. The delegation found that, while UNICEF presence had been an advantage in the humanitarian response, it would be difficult for the Fund to continue to support the Government effectively without an improvement in the security situation. Board members were struck by the dedication of the UNICEF staff in Chad, but observed difficulties in recruiting experienced national and international staff, a need for greater support from the regional office, and the inadequate attention paid by the United Nations to the security of staff members of partner NGOs.

During their visit to India (13-21 May) [E/ICEF/2006/CRP.15], members of the Bureau of the UNICEF Executive Board reviewed the progress, challenges and programming for the achievement of the MDGs. They observed that key steps towards polio eradication, salt iodization, vitamin A supplementation, and the provision of water and sanitation facilities had been taken in recent years. Effective models for reducing child mortality in the first month of life, reducing malnutrition and improving children's performance in school had also been developed. As the UN focus in India in the future would be on capacity development, advocacy, monitoring standards and norms and emergency and post-emergency response, UNICEF role in the country would shift towards modelling innovative interventions, knowledge management and analysis, systems-strengthening at the district level, community empowerment and behavioural change. The members concluded that effective intervention strategies would have to include the integrated approach; behaviour-change communication, coupled with well-targeted service delivery; participatory approaches, such as village planning; and effective partnerships with the private sector. They noted that tackling the implementation gap for social development was a critical challenge for reaching the MDGs, and recommended that the

UNICEF programming cycle be harmonized with government planning cycles.

UNICEF programmes by sector

In 2006, UNICEF programme expenditures, which were linked to the five organizational priorities established in 2005 under the 2006-2009 MTSP [YUN 2005, p. 1284], totalled \$2,118.6 million [E/ICEF/2007/9], an 8 per cent increase over 2005. The largest share of total expenditure, \$1,079.6 million (51 per cent), went to young child survival and development; \$450.2 million (21.3 per cent) to basic education and gender equality; \$233.4 million (11 per cent) to policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights; \$216.6 million (10.2 per cent) to child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse; and \$116.3 million (5.5 per cent) to HIV/AIDS and children. Some \$22.5 million (1.1 per cent) was expended in other areas. Programme support costs amounted to an additional \$142 million.

The estimated shares of the focus areas in total programme assistance for young child survival and development and child protection were very close to projected levels. The overall shares for basic education and gender equality and policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights were above the projected levels, whereas the share for HIV/AIDS and children was well below the projected level. Some distortions in those estimates were believed to have arisen due to the revision of the expenditure coding system and lack of experience with its use in the first year.

Young child survival and development

In 2006, UNICEF supported national immunization programmes in all countries with high child mortality rates and/or with large numbers of child deaths, and helped to leverage new government funding for immunization. Some 113 countries achieved the target of 90 per cent or greater national coverage of combined diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine (DTP3). At the subnational level, strategies were developed to improve immunization coverage in low-performing districts through the "reach every district" approach. Measles-related deaths fell by some 60 per cent worldwide between 1999 and 2005. UNICEF helped to spearhead the Measles Initiative, which supported the vaccination of more than 220 million children in 2006, saving the lives of an additional 90,000 to 100,000 young children. During the year, 22 countries conducted tetanus toxoid supplementary immunization activities, which reached some 11.5 million women of child-bearing age for the first dose and another

29 million for the second and/or third. UNICEF worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners to develop innovative service delivery systems to address the issue of the refusal of polio vaccine in some areas. The number of polio-endemic countries was reduced from six to four, as both Egypt and the Niger successfully stopped all endemic virus transmission.

UNICEF assisted national vitamin A supplementation programmes by distributing 641 million capsules to 75 countries and through awareness-raising and support for food fortification, policy development and integration of vitamin supplementation into routine delivery systems. Progress was also made in combating iodine deficiency disorders (IDD), with 71 per cent of households in the developing world consuming adequately iodized salt, and approximately 82 million newborns protected from learning disabilities caused by IDD.

Among its efforts to combat malaria, UNICEF supported capacity development among health workers, as well as communication at the community level. It also procured 25 million insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), the majority of which were distributed as part of integrated child and maternal health programmes, including antenatal care. Some 42 countries were using artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) as a first-line treatment, whose high efficacy made it the most cost-effective malaria control strategy. UNICEF procured nearly \$15 million worth of ACT during the year, and assisted in the training of health workers and the development of ACT roll-out plans.

Although cotrimoxazole prophylaxis represented a simple, cost-effective intervention for HIV-exposed children, global coverage was lower than that for paediatric anti-retroviral treatment (ART). WHO issued new guidelines in 2006 to facilitate wide-scale implementation of the treatment, while UNICEF worked with national partners on acceleration efforts linked to other child survival interventions.

The Accelerated Child Survival and Development programme supported by UNICEF and other partners in West Africa continued to provide an important model for integrated community-based programmes. Despite the strengths of the programme, such as its community-based approach, emphasis on capacity-building, supervision and monitoring, the enhancement of interventions, and effective advocacy and national policy uptake of ACSD strategies, it suffered from weaknesses that needed to be addressed, such as stock-outs of commodities, and the lack of sustainable funding and motivation of community health workers.

Rapid increases in breastfeeding rates were registered in several countries with community support networks and vigorous media campaigns. Other efforts for improving infant and young child feeding supported by UNICEF included the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and implementation and monitoring of the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes. UNICEF assisted in updating the UN guidelines on HIV and infant and young child feeding on the basis of new evidence. The new Strategic Guidance Note on Newborns, prepared by UNICEF and Save the Children, was used by numerous countries to help design strategies and interventions.

Although the estimated percentage of families reached through good parenting programmes rose from around 28 to 32 per cent between 2005 and 2006, there was still an urgent need to expand such programmes, incorporating locally adapted communication strategies for reaching families and communities. In response to high rates of childhood accidents and injuries in some countries, UNICEF as envisaged under the MTSP, supported a range of interventions, including advocacy and technical support for regulations on child safety, pilot initiatives to prevent injuries and surveillance systems, particularly in China and Viet Nam.

In 2006, UNICEF supported water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in 93 countries, including most least developed countries. A global task force was established with a wide range of public and private partners and organizations to advise and engage more closely with UNICEF on WASH-related issues. New comprehensive programmes were established with UNICEF assistance to pursue Millennium targets in priority countries, and ongoing programmes were strengthened elsewhere. UNICEF addressed water quality issues through support for mass testing of wells; mapping and providing alternative safe water supplies; promoting safe storage and treatment of drinking water; and household rainwater harvesting. Direct UNICEF support for reconstruction and emergency response resulted in millions of people gaining access to safe water and sanitation in 2006. In many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, UNICEF supported initiatives to improve national preparedness capacities and responses for the immediate control of any cholera outbreak. Cholera contingency plans were credited with reducing deaths in Angola, the DRC, Ethiopia, the Sudan and other countries. The UNICEF global WASH and nutrition clusters for emergencies became operational, and funding was being sought to place emergency water and sanitation advisers in all regional offices.

In other emergency action, the Fund assisted countries in the meningitis belt to procure pre-positioned vaccine stockpiles to expedite outbreak response. In response to outbreaks, mainly in West and Central Africa, more than 3.5 million children were vaccinated against meningitis and approximately 6 million against yellow fever. Under its Core Commitments for Children in emergencies, revised in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1205], UNICEF assisted rapid responses in Africa, Asia and Latin America, supporting emergency water supply, storage and treatment, emergency sanitation and the supply of hygiene kits. Assistance was also provided to countries emerging from crisis, including Sierra Leone and those affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

UNICEF supported therapeutic feeding for children with severe acute malnutrition in over 20 countries and community-based management of severe acute malnutrition as a complement to inpatient therapeutic feeding in priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Basic education and gender equality

Progress continued in many countries towards achieving the education- and gender-related MDGs. Global primary school enrolment increased significantly, with the number of primary-school-aged children not enrolled down to some 77 million, although household surveys revealed that many of those enrolled in school might not be attending regularly, if at all. UNICEF collaborated in an initiative for the abolition of school fees, which produced a major surge in enrolment in those countries where enrolment was lagging, including among children from poor families. Its advocacy and support also helped to extend and focus national programmes for early childhood development, the incorporation of which in national development plans was particularly strong in sub-Saharan Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UNICEF assisted programmes in all regions to reduce disparities in access to quality basic education, especially data collection and studies, and through support to policy development and advocacy for compulsory free primary education and special measures for girls and marginalized children. Some 91 developing and 34 industrialized countries were on track to achieving gender parity in primary education, although significant intra-country disparities often remained, while only one third of countries had achieved gender parity at the secondary level. Formally recognized United Nations Girls' Education Initiative partnerships existed in 36 countries in 2006, two more than in 2005,

and UNICEF was involved in ongoing sector-wide approaches to address gender disparities in access to and quality of education in 23 countries, compared to 15 in 2004.

To improve educational quality and address problems of retention and achievement, some 54 countries adopted quality standards for primary education based on the child-friendly school or similar models, compared to 43 countries in 2005. Secondary school retention was addressed in UNICEF-sponsored studies in Bulgaria, Chile, Mexico and Morocco, which highlighted the negative societal impact of secondary school drop-out rates and suggested new strategies for addressing the problem. In those and other countries, UNICEF supported the development of new evidence-based approaches for lowering drop-out rates.

UNICEF expanded its support for WASH programmes in schools in 85 countries in 2006. Activities included the placement of hygiene education in primary school curricula, the training of teachers, the construction of facilities, the development of child- and girl-friendly designs and promotion of communication for behavioural change through students. Important gains were made in dealing with the impact of emergencies on education. Tens of thousands of students were provided access to safe, child-friendly and gender-segregated school sanitation facilities in countries in transition from emergencies. Strategies and tool kits were developed for restoring schooling to affected populations. UNICEF-supported back-to-school campaigns helped nearly 10 million children in countries affected by conflict or in transition to return to school in 2006, including in Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, Iraq, Lebanon, the Sudan and Uganda, as well as in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UNICEF also acted as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee country cluster lead organization for education in Iraq, Somalia, the Sudan and other countries.

The impact of HIV/AIDS on the education sector continued to be a very significant constraint, particularly in parts of Africa. Development partners, including UNICEF, worked jointly towards a comprehensive response.

HIV/AIDS

In 2006, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) reported that many countries had developed national plans of action for children and HIV/AIDS and frameworks for monitoring and evaluating results. Thanks to partnerships in which UNICEF played a significant role, national survey data for 2005 from six of the most affected countries

showed a 25 per cent reduction in HIV prevalence among young people aged 15 to 24 years. In 2006, UNICEF focused its support to countries on the “four P” priority areas (prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) plus; paediatric treatment; protection, care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS; and prevention among adolescents), in line with the goals of the *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* campaign [YUN 2005, p. 1290] and the 2006-2009 MTSP. The campaign had evolved and incorporated the decisions taken at the General Assembly’s 2006 High-level Meeting on AIDS (see p. 1410) and its commitment towards universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support.

UNICEF supported PMTCT programmes in 91 countries. The number of pregnant women and children with access to anti-retrovirals (ARVs) continued to increase and substantial expansion of PMTCT services was reported in a number of countries in Africa and Asia. Rising numbers of children were receiving treatment as a result of better testing, lower drug prices and simpler formulations, but paediatric care still lagged behind adult care. UNICEF and WHO hosted an expert consultation to define strategies for improving paediatric care, support and treatment in resource-constrained settings. In 2006, UNICEF procured 4.5 million ARV treatment packs, compared to 2.8 million in 2005. The focus in the area of HIV/AIDS-related supplies continued to be placed on widening the availability of improved paediatric ARVs and PMTCT-related products.

UNICEF field reports indicated that, by the end of 2006, HIV/AIDS education had been fully integrated in the secondary curricula by some 62 programme countries and partially by another 40 countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Another key UNICEF focus was ensuring that the legal and operational framework for youth-friendly health services was integrated with existing health-care systems. Particular progress in that regard was registered in Central and Eastern Europe and CIS. In 31 countries, awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention was raised through UNICEF support to media events organized around the *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* campaign. UNICEF and partners also used sporting events to transmit messages on HIV/AIDS prevention and safe reproductive health to young people.

UNAIDS programme coordination

At its second regular session in September, the Executive Board considered a July report [E/ICEF/

2006/20] on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board at its seventeenth [YUN 2005, p. 1327] and eighteenth (27-28 June, 2006) (see p. 1418) meetings. Key issues addressed in the report included accelerating implementation of the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors [ibid.]; progress made in intensifying HIV prevention; the UNAIDS unified budget and workplan; and follow-up to the General Assembly’s 2006 High-level Meeting on AIDS (see p. 1410).

Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse

Trends in data availability and analysis on child protection issues were positive in 2006. UNICEF supported national systems for monitoring and reporting in 41 countries during the year, and some 52 UNICEF country offices indicated that they were monitoring and reporting, either fully or partly, violations of children’s protection rights. The Fund supported or carried out rapid assessments in several countries, and worked with government and civil society partners to develop an agreed set of child protection indicators in several others. Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, the DRC, Nepal, Somalia, Sri Lanka and the Sudan established monitoring and reporting mechanisms on child rights violations in compliance with Security Council resolution 1612(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 863]. Despite that progress, widespread absence of agreed indicators at the national level remained a major constraint in measuring results for child protection. During the year, significant data on child protection were included in poverty reduction strategies, national development plans and their equivalents in 24 programme countries, up from 14 in 2005. A further 44 countries included partial data.

The Fund supported efforts against female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in 18 countries, including advocacy and alliance-building with local and national decision makers, public awareness-raising and the training of health workers and traditional healers. FGM/C decreased in Djibouti, and communities and regions in Benin, Ethiopia and Senegal abandoned the practice. New laws or legislative amendments on violence against women and children were passed in several countries, and national studies, campaigns and strategy development took place to raise awareness of the UN study on violence against children [ibid., p. 860].

Globally, the International Labour Organization (ILO) reported reductions of 11 per cent in child

labour and 26 per cent in hazardous child labour in 2002–2006. In India, Mexico and Nicaragua, UNICEF helped to improve national child labour monitoring mechanisms. Over one half of the nearly 60 UNICEF-assisted country programme components for the reduction of child labour were being implemented in collaboration with the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. UNICEF assisted with national surveys on child labour in Guatemala, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Rwanda and other countries, conducted various studies and led training sessions for government officials, civil society organizations and the private sector.

The Fund helped to build the capacities of its partners by conducting training programmes for the protection of children in emergencies in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Somalia and Venezuela. It contributed to the strengthening of the monitoring of child recruitment and other grave violations of children's rights in the Darfur region of the Sudan. UNICEF assisted in demobilizing and reintegrating thousands of child soldiers and other children affected by war in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan and other countries. UNICEF-coordinated mine-risk education programmes reached some 80,000 people in Chechnya, Russian Federation, almost 400,000 in the Sudan, 13,000 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and an estimated 1 million in Lebanon. A decline in casualties from landmines and unexploded ordnance was seen in 2006, due in part to the success of mine-risk education programmes.

The Fund helped to improve the protection of imprisoned children through the development of training programmes and materials for prison guards and police forces in Ghana, Haiti, Timor-Leste and Turkey, and promoted greater use of diversion and alternatives to the detention of children. According to available information, some 16 programme countries were using child-friendly and gender-appropriate investigation and court procedures, and some 34 others had taken measures to implement the United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime [ibid., p. 1236], compared to 22 in 2005. Major constraints were still posed, however, by a lack of proper juvenile justice structures and technical resources and a high turnover of police staff.

In 2006, some 44 programme countries had policies on the provision of alternative care for children, in line with international standards, compared to 36 in 2005. UNICEF worked with national partners on formulating new standards and policies for such care. UNICEF support to tracing systems and

reintegration programmes facilitated the reunification of thousands of children separated from their families in Indonesia, Liberia, Sri Lanka and the Sudan.

Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights

Renewed efforts by UNICEF to build partnerships to generate dialogue on public policies affecting children, young people and women and to promote child-friendly budgetary and legislative reforms saw significant progress. Successful large-scale staff training on public policy helped to lay the basis for more effective advocacy and partnership-building, particularly at country and regional levels. The formulation of new Common Country Assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks provided entry points for more systematic analysis and advocacy for addressing the rights and priority needs of children and women. In that regard, collaborative efforts with other UN agencies, the World Bank, civil society, donors and academic institutions intensified.

UNICEF supported multiple indicator cluster surveys in 55 countries to collect data on key indicators on the MDGs, fill knowledge gaps on the situation of children and women and strengthen the evidence base for national planning and advocacy. It promoted and supported the use of *DevInfo*, a database for compiling and presenting child-related data, in 103 countries, including training of government staff, the provision of equipment, assistance in software customization, development of manuals and support for data collection. The Fund helped to develop knowledge management systems to impact children's policies and programmes in Bangladesh, Honduras, India and Mozambique, and a child rights index advocacy tool helped to raise awareness in several Latin American countries. While 94 of 115 UNICEF country offices significantly supported the national reporting process to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, support for such reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see p. 1354) remained at lower levels.

The Fund also supported a variety of child-friendly budget analyses and advocacy initiatives, which helped to raise awareness of resource allocation shortfalls for child-related goals in several countries. It worked increasingly with Governments and civil society partners to strengthen systems to monitor and analyse national budgets, with systems in place in at least 17 programme countries. UNICEF contributed to increasing knowledge on issues related to children and women through the sponsorship of

major thematic studies or analyses in 87 countries in 2005 and 2006.

In an estimated 61 per cent of countries for which field reports were available, national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, transition plans and similar policy instruments addressed key challenges for children, women and gender equality, as compared to 57 per cent in 2005. UNICEF assisted policy processes, such as poverty reduction strategies, in 84 countries during the year, compared with 67 in 2004. UNICEF engagement with sector-wide approaches (SWAPs) and multi-donor budget support mechanisms helped to strengthen policies and leverage new resources for child-focused programmes in Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The Fund supported the development, implementation and/or monitoring of SWAPs in 40 countries in 2006, compared to 29 in 2004. It provided Governments with technical support in preparing proposals for global development funds, helping to secure significant funding for child survival and development programmes. Wider access to critical supplies for children and families was also supported by the growing value of UNICEF procurement services.

Progress was steady in promoting the wider participation of children and adolescents in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies, programmes and legislation. UNICEF helped support the "Junior 8" Summit (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 8-17 July), allowing 64 children to hold discussions and present recommendations directly to the leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) most industrialized countries. The Fund worked extensively with national, subnational and community media organizations to disseminate information for young people and children, including through youth-led outlets. In Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe, UNICEF-assisted initiatives helped to facilitate peer-to-peer communication and highlight the opinions of young people. UNICEF also expanded its "sports for development" initiative as a framework for youth participation and for reaching young people with life-skills messages and promoting physical activity and recreation.

Operational and administrative matters

UNICEF finances

In 2006, UNICEF income totalled \$2,781 million, an increase of \$19 million (1 per cent) over 2005, 18 per cent higher than forecast in the financial plan. Income to regular resources increased by 30 per cent to \$1,056 million in 2006, and total contribu-

tions to other resources decreased by 12 per cent to \$1,725 million, as a result of a 47 per cent reduction in funding for emergencies. UNICEF derived its income primarily from Governments, which contributed \$1,614 million (58 per cent), and \$799 million (29 per cent) from private sector sources. The balance came from inter-organizational arrangements, with contributions of \$178 million (6 per cent), and other sources, with contributions of \$190 million (7 per cent).

Budget appropriations

On 17 January [dec. 2006/1], the Executive Board approved a regular resources programme budget for the 2006-2007 biennium in the amount of \$25,190,000 and a budget of \$25 million for the Emergency Programme Fund (see p. 1375). It authorized the Executive Director to transfer, if necessary, between programme fields an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the approved budget of the Fund to which the transfer was made. The Board also approved a programme budget ceiling of \$302.2 million for other resources for the 2006-2007 biennium, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions. Funds in excess of indicated amounts for specific programme areas and regions could be received provided the total amount was within the approved limit.

The Executive Board also considered the biennial support budget for 2006-2007 [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.1 & Corr.1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.3 & Corr.1]. On 19 January [dec. 2006/2], it approved gross appropriations of \$746,794,000 for programme support and management and administration, to be offset by estimated income of \$190,000,000, resulting in estimated net appropriations of \$556,794,000, and authorized the Executive Director to redeploy resources between appropriation lines up to 5 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources were deployed. The Board decided to reflect the centrally-shared security costs mandated by the United Nations as a separate line in the UNICEF resource plan and approved \$26,204,000 from regular resources to cover such costs. The Board established a separation fund to cover separation and termination liabilities, approved an initial allocation of \$10,000,000 from regular resources for the fund and requested UNICEF to ensure that the initiative was in line with the harmonization efforts of UN funds and programmes. It also requested UNICEF, at its 2006 annual session, to include in a report on harmonized country programme approval procedures (see p. 1377), to be elaborated jointly with UNDP

and UNFPA, an assessment of possible implications of that procedure for the timing of the approval of the biennial support budget by the Board.

In accordance with its decisions 2004/7 [YUN 2004, p. 1187] and 2005/16 [YUN 2005, p. 1292], the Board approved an interim one-month allocation for January 2008 in the amount of \$31,600,000, to be absorbed in the 2008-2009 biennial support budget. Welcoming the continued improvement in results-based budgeting, it urged the Executive Director to give high priority to implementing that process for the 2008-2009 biennium and ensure that UNICEF programme countries received sufficient support to enable them to contribute to the achievement of MTSP objectives and the MDGs.

On 9 June [dec. 2006/10], the Board approved the aggregate indicative budgets for 9 country programmes for 2007, 1 for 2007-2009, 2 for 2007-2010 and 12 for 2007-2011, amounting to the following totals for regular and other resources, respectively, by region: Africa, \$180,224,000 and \$479,334,000; East Asia and the Pacific, \$12,016,000 and \$49,200,000; Central and Eastern Europe and CIS, \$3,595,000 and \$15,250,000; Middle East and North Africa, \$72,486,000 and \$473,205,000. Based on the recommendation contained in an April report [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.27], the Board also approved \$51,603,065 in additional regular resources for 38 country programmes for 2006 and 2007 [dec. 2006/11].

On 8 September, the Board approved [dec. 2006/13] the aggregate indicative budgets for 6 country programmes for 2007, 2 for 2007-2009, 3 for 2007-2010, 16 for 2007-2011, as well as the Gulf Area sub-regional programme for 2007-2009, amounting to the following totals for regular and other resources, respectively, by region: Africa, \$126,094,000 and \$326,288,000; the Americas and the Caribbean, \$33,527,000 and \$152,634,000; Asia, \$17,118,000 and \$72,340,000; Central and Eastern Europe and CIS, \$1,803,000 and \$9,800,000; Middle East and North Africa, \$0 and \$7,500,000. It also approved, on the basis of a July report [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.63], additional other resources for 18 country programmes, totalling \$375,850,000 [dec. 2006/14].

Additionally, the Board, on the same date [dec. 2006/16], having considered a proposal for strengthening UNICEF emergency response capacity [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.62], approved an increase in the ceiling of the Emergency Programme Fund from \$25 million to \$75 million, effective 2006, to be met through existing resources, in order to improve UNICEF's ability to provide an effective, predictable and timely response to the needs of children and

women affected by humanitarian emergencies. It encouraged UNICEF to strengthen its internal capacities and coordination with Governments, relevant parts of the UN system and civil society to ensure effective, predictable and timely responses to natural disasters and complex emergencies.

The Board considered a July report [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.9 & Corr.1] proposing a supplementary budget of \$13.4 million to cover the additional costs in the 2006-2007 biennial support budget for strengthening capacities for crisis management and operational continuity in the event of a pandemic crisis, including the establishment and equipping of an alternate data centre outside New York and the establishment of a specialized unit to be known as the Operations Preparedness and Business Continuity Unit, as well as the related ACABQ report [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.10]. It approved [dec. 2006/17] an immediate supplementary budget in gross and net appropriations of \$1 million for additional costs related to stocking necessary medical supplies. It requested UNICEF to resubmit its remaining budget for crisis and business continuity capacity, including for an influenza pandemic or other disasters, to the Board, through ACABQ at its first regular session of 2007, and to make every effort to coordinate and share resources with other UN entities. On 8 September [dec. 2006/14], on the basis of a July report [E/ICEF/2006/P/L.63], the Board approved additional other resources for 18 country programmes, totalling \$375,850,000.

Audits

According to its July report [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.8] on internal audit activities in 2005, the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) completed 40 audits, consisting of 33 country office audits, four headquarters audits, two regional office audits, and one global summary report. In its audit of headquarters divisions, OIA found the Supply Division's management of shipping and handling of UNICEF-procured supplies to be satisfactory, but noted weaknesses in several divisions' management of internal performance information, as well as in some aspects of headquarters and regional offices' coordinated responses to the onset of sudden emergencies. Controls in UNICEF country offices were satisfactory in the areas of office management, basic information and communication technology, and in the implementation of prior audit recommendations. Controls were also generally satisfactory in finance, basic programme management and the provision of supply assistance, although there was scope for improvement. While the profile of country offices' risk-management practices in 2005 improved slightly, programme and op-

erations support from regional offices needed to be enhanced, as well as regional and global monitoring of country office practices in areas of common weakness. In 2006, a revised Audit Committee Charter was promulgated, with enhanced responsibilities, including the review of the UNICEF oversight system, the quality and integrity of its accounting and reporting practices, and the review of the internal and external audit practices.

On 8 September [dec. 2006/18], the Executive Board noted the OIA report and the further strengthening of the UNICEF Audit Committee. It requested OIA to include more analytical content in its reports, identifying common areas of risk and tracking their evolution, analysing the systematic causes of risk and recommending system improvement. The OIA Director should include in his annual audit reports a summary of key and recurrent findings and a table identifying unresolved audit findings by year and prioritization category. The Executive Director should provide separate management responses to key and recurring issues identified in the OIA Director's annual report, including an explanation of findings that had remained unresolved for 18 months or more, and submit that report to the Board along with the annual report of the OIA Director. The Executive Director should work closer with UNDP, UNFPA and other agencies to achieve the highest possible internal auditing standards, harmonize their audit and management reporting, including by standardizing audit terms and definitions and aligning them with internationally recognized norms, assess the resources required, and report on those steps at the Board's 2007 annual session.

Recovery policy

At its June session, the Executive Board considered an April review of UNICEF cost-recovery policy [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.4], submitted in response to its 2003 decision [YUN 2003, p. 1212] requesting the Executive Director to review the performance of the policy, which was adopted in that year [ibid., p. 1213] as an interim measure. The report found that, although regular and other resources had increased since the adoption of the policy, its complexity, especially its 15 different contribution rates and seven recovery rates, hindered UNICEF ability to be an effective partner, gave the appearance that UNICEF was a difficult organization to work with, and that its recovery rates were higher than those of other UN agencies. It recommended that the Board adopt a base recovery rate of 7 per cent for other resources income, with thematic contributions assessed at 5 per cent; maintain the 5 per cent rate for

non-thematic funding raised by the private sector in programme countries; assess a 1 per cent reduction to joint programmes where the Executive Director considered it in the best interests of enhancing the collective interests of UN agencies; and assess a 1 per cent reduction for contributions over \$40 million, where the Executive Director was satisfied that economies of scale were met. ACABQ, in its May report [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.5], recommended approval of the revised recovery policy.

On 9 June [dec. 2006/7], the Board approved the recommendations of the cost-recovery policy review. It requested the Executive Director to keep it regularly informed on the actual costs recovered and the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources and, in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), present a status report in 2007 on the progress towards the harmonization on cost recovery, including information on cost-recovery methodologies.

Resource mobilization

UNICEF collaborated with Governments to mobilize regular and other resources. At the seventh pledging event in January, 42 countries committed a total of \$257.5 million. By year's end, 104 countries had contributed \$466 million in regular resources and \$1,148 million in other resources. While Government contributions to regular resources showed a small decline compared to 2005, the increase in regular resources contributions from the private sector and "other income" resulted in overall growth of regular resources income of 30 per cent over 2005. The United States remained the largest donor to regular resources (\$126 million), followed by Sweden (\$58 million), Norway (\$47 million), the Netherlands (\$37 million), the United Kingdom (\$36 million), Japan (\$21 million) and Canada (\$12 million). Thematic funding (excluding humanitarian) increased by 40 per cent over 2005 levels, with the largest increase being for child protection. A total of 20 Governments and 34 National Committees provided thematic funding for MTSP focus areas and the humanitarian thematic pool. The private sector mobilized 34 per cent of the overall thematic funds in 2006. The top 10 donors to MTSP thematic funds contributed \$154,461,702. Of the sought \$1.2 billion for humanitarian interventions 77 per cent were received, compared to 47 per cent for consolidated appeals.

Private Sector Division

Net income from UNICEF Private Sector Division (PSD) activities for the year ended 31

December 2006 totalled \$392.6 million for regular resources, \$104 million (36 per cent) higher than the \$288.6 million raised in 2005 [E/ICEF/2007/AB/L.10]. That total included \$337.6 million from private sector fund-raising activities, \$56.9 million from the sale of UNICEF cards and gifts, and a positive exchange rate adjustment of \$15.3 million, less investment fund expenditures of \$17.2 million. An additional \$342.3 million of earmarked funds were raised for other resources from private sector fund-raising activities. The net consolidated income for 2006, including both regular and other resources, amounted to \$734.9 million, a decrease of \$323.3 million (30.5 per cent) compared with the 2005 net consolidated income of \$1,058.2 million.

On 19 January [dec. 2006/5], the Executive Board approved budgeted expenditures of \$105.3 million for the 2006 PSD work plan [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.2]. It authorized UNICEF to redeploy resources between the various budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved, and to spend between Executive Board sessions an additional amount up to that caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2006 approved workplan. The Board renewed investment funds, with \$21.4 million established for 2006; authorized UNICEF to incur expenditures in 2006 related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for 2007, up to \$32.7 million; and approved the PSD medium-term plan for 2007-2010.

In September, the Board took note of the PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2005 [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.7].

Country programme approval process

In response to a 2005 Executive Board decision [YUN 2005, p. 1293], UNICEF submitted an April report [E/ICEF/2006/12] on options for improving the harmonized country programme approval process. Annexed to the report were the UNDG process for simplifying and harmonizing the UN programming process and documentation; an outline of the contents of a consolidated document at the country level (the Consolidated United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)), intended to reduce transaction costs and redundancies in programme documentation and strengthen the results focus and UN country teams coherence in implementation; and a format for the simplified presentation of organization-specific contributions to the Consolidated UNDAF. Included in the report was a draft decision for adoption by the Board.

At the Board's June session, concern was expressed that the proposals for harmonizing the country programme approval procedure did not take into account the principle that national priorities and strategies in the work of the UN funds and programmes should govern any proposals relating to country programmes. It approved a statement of its President requesting UNICEF, jointly with UNDP and UNFPA, to make further proposals for improving and streamlining the procedure.

At the September session, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF submitted a joint report on options to further improve and streamline the harmonized country programme approval process [E/ICEF/2006/CRP.17], which recognized and reaffirmed the principle of national ownership and leadership. It also sought to ensure the continuance of the respective Executive Boards' functions through the process for reviewing and approving multi-year cooperation programmes, mainly by focusing on the consistency and coherence of those programmes with the multi-year framework or strategic plan of the particular agency, fund or programme.

On 8 September [dec. 2006/19], the UNICEF Executive Board decided that, in order to decrease the time frame for the country programme approval process and create more scope for synchronization with the length of national programme cycles, the practice of presenting draft country programme documents for discussion at its annual session would continue. The revised country programme documents would then be posted on the UNICEF website no later than six weeks after the discussion, and a hard copy provided, upon request, to Board members by the secretariat. The country programmes would then be approved by the Board at the second regular session on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion, unless at least five members gave prior written notification of their wish to bring a particular country programme before the Board. Approval of those country programmes for which revised documents were not posted within the six-week period would be postponed to the Board's first regular session of the following year. It also decided to continue to follow the guidelines regarding length and content adopted in its decision 2002/4 [YUN 2002, p. 1191] for the submission and approval of country programmes. Continued efforts should be made to improve results-based planning and management, and to strengthen the alignment of country programmes with national strategies, as well as with the approved MTSP. UNICEF country programme documents should clearly contribute to and derive from national plans and strategies, as well as the outcomes established in the UNDAF.

Joint programming

At its June session, the Executive Board had before it an April report on the implementation experience of joint programming and joint programmes by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF since 2004 [E/ICEF/2006/13], which responded to a 2005 Executive Board request [YUN 2005, p. 1293]. The report reflected on the experience of the joint programmes implemented or developed within the framework of the common country programming process and the inter-organization guidance note on joint programming, taking stock of its benefits and challenges. The report stated that UNDG, and its Executive committee organizations in particular, had promoted joint programmes where they added value, and programming manuals and training had been amended to reflect applicable procedures. The inter-organization joint programmes working group and the joint programmes focal point in the UNDG Office provided advice and support to UN country teams. A key development was the establishment of a joint programmes database on the UNDG website, which, when fully developed, would provide a comprehensive view of collective joint programme activity. The benefits of joint programming included reduced duplication and transaction costs and increased coherence. It also improved the information and knowledge base in countries; increased the coherence of activities for greater effectiveness; helped to maintain a focus on organization mandates and ensure transparency and accountability; enabled marginalized populations to be reached; facilitated a swift response to crises; and allowed additional resources to be leveraged.

However, several challenges remained, including a reduction in the level of collaboration once the UNDAF had been completed; joint programmes that did not merit the transaction costs; limited use of joint programmes in the broader national programmatic context; the perception that joint programmes were UN-centred rather than promoting partnerships with others; and the need to improve monitoring and evaluation. The report recommended that a full evaluation of joint programming be undertaken once there was sufficient experience to draw meaningful results.

An addendum to the report [E/ICEF/2006/13/Add.1] focused on UNICEF experience with joint programming since 2004.

Sector-wide approaches

At its June session, the Executive Board considered a May report on UNICEF engagement in sector-wide approaches (SWAPs) [E/ICEF/2006/14]. UNICEF had increased its involvement in SWAPs as those

instruments became more widely used by countries as a development planning approach. UNICEF contributions included capacity development, technical and policy advice, support to data collection and use, and monitoring and evaluation. It worked closely with other UN agencies to share the challenge of involvement and ensure that the broad viewpoints and international experience of development were made available to national planning authorities. It also set up networking and training opportunities for its staff to help them overcome several knowledge and skills gaps. Within the context of MTSP priorities, UNICEF was uniquely positioned to proactively lead and cultivate effective sector-wide partnerships to leverage resources, assistance and results for children. In the report, it was recommended that UNICEF provide regular updates on the issue as part of the results frameworks included in the annual report of the Executive Director.

On 9 June [dec. 2006/8], the Board approved the recommendation.

JIU reports

In January, the Executive Board considered a secretariat note [E/ICEF/2006/4] on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of specific relevance to UNICEF. The document provided information on reports prepared between September 2004 and September 2005, action taken by UNICEF, and views held on the issues raised by the inspectors. At its January session, the Board took note of the reports.

Organizational review

In 2006, UNICEF initiated a comprehensive organizational review, which identified critical success factors and the strengths and weaknesses of the Fund in terms of programme and management effectiveness. It assessed UNICEF capacity to carry out its mandate for children against the background of external trends. Conducted by external consultants and supported by a small secretariat, the review drew extensively on other management initiatives, incorporating their findings into its overall diagnosis. While the review confirmed the continuing critical role of UNICEF around the world, it identified the need for change in its approaches to programme development and strategy, technical assistance, resource mobilization and allocation, partnerships, management practices and business processes. Implementation of the recommendations, which emphasized the importance of knowledge, innovation and learning, would require significant changes in UNICEF structure, staffing and systems.

A small unit was established to provide impetus to and monitor the change processes at all levels and in all locations of the organization.

Youth

World Programme of Action for Youth

In 2006, UN policies and programmes on youth continued to focus on efforts to implement the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 50/81 [YUN 1995, p. 1211]. The Programme of Action addressed problems faced by youth worldwide and identified ways to enhance youth participation in national and international policy- and decision-making. The Programme of Action identified 10 priority issues for youth: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and participation in society and decision-making. In resolution 60/2 [YUN 2005, p. 1294], the General Assembly added five additional issues of concern to young people: globalization, the increased use of information and communication technology, HIV/AIDS, the increased participation of young people in armed conflict, as both victims and perpetrators, and the growing importance of intergenerational relations in an ageing global society. The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) organized several meetings and workshops related to those priorities. It organized a regional expert group meeting (Bangkok, Thailand, 28-30 March), hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which addressed development challenges for young people in Asia in preparation for the World Youth Report 2007. DSPD and the Economic Commission for Africa held a capacity-building workshop (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27-29 June) on major youth development challenges in Africa. In collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, DSPD organized an expert group meeting on the participation of youth as partners in peace and development in post-conflict countries (Windhoek, Namibia, 14-16 November).

At the culmination of a series of five regional summits, the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace organized the Global Youth Leadership Summit (New York, 29-31

October). The Summit sought to encourage young leaders from around the world to explore ways in which they could better the future of their communities, regions, and the emerging global society through achievement of the MDGs. The declaration adopted by the Summit called for the empowerment and capacity-building of young leaders, and for a more active representation of youth in the institutions of government, and regional and international organizations and bodies.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as part of the activities organized for the celebration of its sixtieth anniversary, held a thematic week on youth (Paris, 16-17 August) under the theme "Acting with and for youth".

Youth employment

Report of Secretary-General. In an April report on generating full and productive employment for all [E/2006/55], the Secretary-General stated that, although they made up only 25 per cent of the working-age population, almost half of the world's unemployed were young people. The integration of youth, especially from poor households, into the labour market was relevant for growth prospects, social mobility and cohesion, and the interruption of the intergenerational transmission of poverty, all of which had been taken into account by the MDGs and the United Nations Youth Employment Network [YUN 2001, p. 1100]. The Secretary-General noted the importance of creating policies to stimulate additional employment opportunities for young people, complemented by targeted measures to overcome the specific disadvantages they encountered in entering or remaining in the labour market. Measures should also be taken to create an enabling business environment; inform and assist young people in establishing or joining small enterprises; and help young persons move from the informal to the formal economy. In order to mainstream youth employment into national development strategies, measures to enhance the employability of youth should be a key component of labour-market policies and educational reforms. Countries were invited to consider integrating vocational training approaches into their education systems, at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The Economic and Social Council [A/61/3/Rev.1], in a ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment (Geneva, 3-5 July) of its 2006 substantive session, reaffirmed the commitment to developing and implementing strategies to give youth everywhere a real and equal opportunity to find full and productive employment and decent work. It pledged

to mainstream youth employment into national development strategies and agendas; develop policies and programmes for enhancing the employability of youth, including through education, training and lifelong learning that met labour-market requirements; and promote access to work through integrated policies that enabled the creation of and facilitated access to new and quality jobs for young people, including through information and training initiatives. The declaration recognized the importance of the Youth Employment Network as a peer exchange, support and review mechanism, and invited Member States, the United Nations and partner organizations to strengthen and expand the Network at the national, regional and international levels.

The Network's Youth Consultative Group developed a methodology to support the participation of youth NGOs in the formulation of national action plans on youth employment. The Group also highlighted the challenges of successful youth employment policy and its implementation at a workshop (Geneva, 29-30 June) organized as part of the Civil Society Forum to the 2006 meeting of the Economic and Social Council. During the year, a Network office was established at the United Nations Office for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal, to facilitate national strategies on youth employment and increase private sector involvement in the creation of employment for youth.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [draft: E/2006/26], adopted **resolution 2006/15** without vote [agenda item 14 (b)].

Promoting youth and employment

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the resolve of heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work and, as contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, a central objective of their relevant national and international policies and their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

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

Recalling General Assembly resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which the Assembly took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998, which set forth important commitments regarding youth employment, and recalling also Assembly resolutions 56/117 of 19 December 2001 and 57/165 of 18 December 2002,

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

Recognizing also that Governments have a primary responsibility to educate young people, to encourage them to seek training so as to increase their employability and to create an enabling environment that will promote youth employment,

Recognizing further the need to promote, protect and fully respect the basic rights of young workers as defined by relevant International Labour Organization and other international instruments,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment;

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Economic Commission for Africa entitled *Economic Report on Africa, 2005: Meeting the Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty in Africa*;

3. *Takes note further* of the relevant provisions on employment of the Declaration of Mar del Plata of 5 November 2005 adopted at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, and the conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council of 23 March 2005, in which it was agreed that the European Youth Pact would be an integrated part of the Lisbon Strategy;

4. *Encourages* the international community to provide technical and capacity-building support to developing countries, as appropriate, in support of national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, mainstreaming youth employment;

5. *Encourages* Governments that have prepared national reviews and action plans on youth employment to move forward to implementation, and also encourages Governments that have not yet prepared their reviews, national action plans or progress reports to do so as soon as possible;

6. *Also encourages* Governments to develop their national action plans through collaboration among governmental bodies, representative youth organizations, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society, to promote partnerships among public authorities, the private sector, educational institutions and civil society and to integrate these action plans into their broader national development programmes, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, in order to create a methodology to evaluate the plans and strategies

and to prioritize therein the necessary resources for their implementation;

7. *Further encourages* Governments to contribute to the possible development by the appropriate intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations of new policy-oriented indicators to better monitor and evaluate progress in implementing their national action plans, and invites the Youth Employment Network to contribute to that process, taking into account young people, including students and those who are unemployed, underemployed, working in the informal economy or who may have dropped out of the labour market altogether;

8. *Urges* Governments to consider youth employment as integral to their overall strategies for development and collective security, and within that context to give renewed attention to the United Nations Millennium Declaration commitment concerning decent and productive work for young people as key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Renews* the invitation contained in General Assembly resolutions 57/165 of 18 December 2002 and 58/133 of 22 December 2003 to the International Labour Organization, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the World Bank and other relevant specialized agencies, within the framework of the Youth Employment Network, to assist and support, upon request, the efforts of Governments in the elaboration and implementation of national reviews and action plans;

10. *Encourages* Governments to improve the education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion of young people and, where appropriate, to promote entrepreneurship and facilitate the reconciliation of family life and working life, in order to support the integration of young people into the labour market;

11. *Also encourages* Governments to facilitate interaction among educational institutions and the public and private sectors to prevent unemployment and the low returns on investment in training that result from a skills mismatch, and in that regard calls for technical support from relevant United Nations organizations and the international community for national and regional programmes such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other regional economic groups in order to facilitate public-private integration;

12. *Underlines* the fact that non-formal and informal learning are complementary elements to the formal educational process and are useful instruments in facilitating the transition from education to employment;

13. *Invites* new countries and partner organizations to join the Youth Employment Network; encourages the lead countries to strengthen the work of the Network as a peer exchange, support and review mechanism; and, in support of the further development of this mechanism, invites the International Labour Organization, in close cooperation with the World Bank and the Secretariat, within the framework of the Youth Employment Network, to undertake regular updates of the global analysis and evaluation of progress made in the development and implementation of national reviews and action plans on youth employment;

14. *Recommends* that the Youth Consultative Group of the Youth Employment Network be strengthened so that, in addition to its overall advisory role, it can play a more active role at the country level through its constituent youth organizations in supporting the development and implementation of national action plans;

15. *Encourages* Governments to promote the participation of national youth organizations in supporting the development and implementation of their national action plans on youth employment;

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

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive report on the implementation of the cluster entitled "Youth in the global economy" of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, and to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2007, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session, information on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress achieved by the Youth Employment Network.

Ageing persons

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

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 59/150 [YUN 2004, p. 1193], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-fourth session (New York, 8-17 February and 22 March) [E/2006/26] (see p. 1276), a report [E/CN.5/2006/2] on modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1194], adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 [ibid., p. 1193]. The report reviewed progress in defining the modalities and possible arrangements for the first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Plan of Action at the national, regional and international levels.

The Secretary-General proposed that the Commission request those Member States that had not done so, to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and inform the UN Secretariat accordingly, in order to facilitate international cooperation and exchange of information and good practices. The Secretariat

should coordinate efforts in identifying support to Governments to undertake a participatory review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. Regional commissions should identify modalities for conducting the regional review and appraisal and ask interested Governments to offer assistance, including financial contributions, to support national action and the convening of regional review and appraisal activities and events during 2006 and 2007.

The Commission should endorse the proposed calendar for the first cycle of review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2006, 2007 and 2008; request the Secretary-General to submit to its forty-fifth (2007) session a report on major developments in ageing since the Second World Assembly on Ageing; and invite Governments to present information on actions they had taken since then for review, using a bottom-up participatory approach. The concluding event of the global segment of the first cycle of the review and appraisal should include, along with a plenary debate, a series of panel discussions and parallel events related to the theme of the cycle; and all major stakeholders should be invited to participate in the process and contribute to its various activities and events. The Commission should recommend to the Economic and Social Council the integration of ageing into the monitoring, review and appraisal exercises of other major international development initiatives and policy frameworks, including the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49], the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development [YUN 1994, p. 955], the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development [YUN 1995, p. 1113] and the Beijing Platform for Action [ibid., p. 1170], as well as their follow-up processes. It was suggested that the Commission should consider "Adjusting to an ageing world" as its theme for the first review and appraisal cycle.

Commission action. In a February resolution [E/2006/26 (res. 44/1)] on modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Commission, taking note of the Secretary General's report, endorsed as the global theme for the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action "Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing". It approved the report's other recommendations and decided to start the first global cycle of review and appraisal at its forty-fifth (2007) session and to conclude it at its forty-sixth (2008) session. The Commission requested the regional commissions to identify modalities for conduct-

ing the regional review and appraisal and invited interested Governments to offer support and assistance, including voluntary financial contributions, to support national action in the context of the regional implementation and the convening of regional review and appraisal activities and events during 2006-2007. It invited all major stakeholders, including civil society, to participate in the process and to contribute to its various activities and events, and requested Member States to identify specific areas for in-depth participatory inquiries, using a bottom-up approach. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to its forty-sixth session a report, which should include the conclusions of the first review and appraisal exercise, along with the identification of current and emerging issues and related policy options.

Report of Secretary-General. In a July report [A/61/167], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 60/135 [YUN 2005, p. 1298], the Secretary-General highlighted national and international efforts to build capacity for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. It outlined achievements of and challenges for Member States in national capacity development, including in the areas of institutional infrastructure; human resources; mobilization of financial resources; research, data collection and analysis; and sound policy process.

The report noted that, due to the lack of resources for technical cooperation in the regional commissions, DESA had drafted a funding proposal to offer training at the regional and subregional levels to assist national focal points on ageing in organizing national reviews and appraisals, and to provide resources for regional review and appraisal conferences. It also prepared a publication to assist Governments in organizing and conducting their review and appraisal exercises entitled *Guidelines for Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Bottom-up Participatory Approach*. In an effort to build capacity in data collection, the United Nations Statistics Division was active in a number of country-level initiatives to improve data collection and analysis. UNFPA was involved in formulating national plans and programmes on ageing; supporting projects aimed at strengthening government capacity to formulate and implement evidence-based strategic plans and policies on ageing; and training for the development of national capacity on ageing. ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and WHO were also active in capacity-building on ageing issues.

The Secretary-General concluded that issues related to ageing and older persons remained rela-

tively low on both national and international development agendas, and as a result, many Member States lacked awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action and its recommendations. He recommended that greater attention be paid to building capacity to reduce poverty among older persons, particularly older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty reduction strategies and national development frameworks, and encouraging greater consultation with older persons in the course of developing, implementing and monitoring poverty reduction plans. Ageing-related policies should be conducted through inclusive consultations involving government ministries and parliaments, as well as other stakeholders and social partners. Governments and organizations should forge stronger partnerships with civil society groups, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations and the private sector; designate specific institutions, such as agencies, ministries, national committees or advisory councils, to be primarily responsible for handling follow-up of national plans of action on ageing; and with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, demonstrate commitment and provide additional funding to research and data-collection initiatives on ageing.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/61/437 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 61/142** without vote [agenda item 60 (d)].

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, as well as its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 59/150 of 20 December 2004 and 60/135 of 16 December 2005,

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

Recalling further Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, in which the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Mindful that, in its resolution 44/1 of 17 February 2006, the Commission for Social Development endorsed the calendar and the global theme for the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, “Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing”, and decided to start the first global cycle of review and appraisal in 2007 at its forty-fifth session and to conclude it in 2008 at its forty-sixth session,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, particularly older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans, and by encouraging greater consultation with older persons in the course of developing, implementing and monitoring poverty eradication plans;

2. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

4. *Invites* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling follow-up of national plans of action on ageing;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to promote a bottom-up participatory approach throughout the entire implementation process;

6. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information on gender and ageing;

7. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and in this connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

8. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, take into account the situation of older persons;

9. *Takes note* of Commission for Social Development resolution 44/1, in this context invites Member States to undertake an initial identification of actions they have taken since the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 as well as policy recommendations for the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and encourages regional commissions to iden-

tify modalities for conducting the regional review and appraisal, including best practices, with the aim of presenting this information to the Commission at its forty-fifth session in 2007;

10. *Recommends* to the Economic and Social Council the integration of ageing into the monitoring, review and appraisal exercises of other major international development initiatives and policy frameworks, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population

and Development, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and their follow-up processes;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on the commemoration of the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2007.