

United Nations restructuring and institutional matters

In 2008, the Secretary-General continued to work with the UN system and Member States to further enhance system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, and to support progress toward reaching internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. A review of the lessons learned from the first year of experience of the eight “Delivering as one” pilot countries resulted in the issuance of a summary statement on the way forward. Despite remaining challenges, indicators showed that the process had yielded positive results, which was also reflected in the report of the Co-Chairs on system-wide coherence. The Co-Chairs recommended continued consultations in four priority areas: harmonization of business practices, funding, governance, and gender equality and the empowerment of women, which the General Assembly endorsed in September.

The General Assembly’s informal working group on mandate review continued to review mandates older than five years, which included the examination of some 331 mandates of the humanitarian assistance and the Africa development clusters. The Working Group submitted its final report in August. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly continued to identify ways to further enhance the Assembly’s role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency. The Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council considered ways to advance progress on Council reforms.

The Assembly continued to focus on administrative and institutional matters. One high-level plenary meeting was convened on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action on landlocked developing countries. A commemorative plenary meeting devoted to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was also held.

The Security Council held 244 formal meetings to deal with regional conflicts, peacekeeping operations and other issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In addition to its organizational and substantive sessions, the Economic and Social Council held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organiza-

tions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Restructuring issues

Programme of reform

Recommendations of High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence

In a letter dated 11 June [A/63/85-E/2008/83], Mozambique transmitted to the Secretary-General the “Maputo Declaration”, the outcome of the seminar it hosted (Maputo, Mozambique, 21–23 May) for the representatives of the eight Governments of the “Delivering as one” pilot countries (Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam), together with the representatives of Malawi. Launched in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 1417], the Delivering as one pilot initiative resulted from the recommendations on development, humanitarian assistance and the environment contained in the 2006 report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence [YUN 2006, p. 1584]. The seminar reviewed lessons learned from the first year of experience of the programme pilot countries and participants exchanged views on how to move the process forward and advance the recommendations of General Assembly resolution 62/208 [YUN 2007, p. 877] on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development.

In the summary statement, participants stressed that the pilot countries became pilots with the hope that a more coherent UN system would better support the Governments in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51]. They indicated that national ownership in their development partnerships with the UN system had been enhanced through the Delivering as one process. They also noted the diversity of their national circumstances and agreed that in their experience in Delivering as one, the “no one size fits all” principle was being upheld. The seminar reaffirmed the gains made by the pilot countries with respect to enhancing Government leadership of UN system operational activities for development. Initial indicators also revealed that the pilot process was yielding positive

results in ensuring that the UN development system was a more effective and coherent counterpart of its national partners. Both the Governments and the UN country teams reported that there was increased availability of the UN system's mandates and expertise for meeting national plans and priorities. Major constraints to the implementation and acceleration of Delivering as one included the lack of predictability and timeliness of funding; lack of harmonization and simplification of business practices; generally high transaction costs of the United Nations; poor alignment of UN capacities with the priorities of programme countries; and a low level of use of national operational capacities. The seminar provided recommendations for accelerating implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208 in the areas of national ownership and leadership; alignment of UN capacity to the needs of programme countries; integration of planning and programme instruments; coherence of budgetary and funding processes; leadership and coordination of UN country teams; and joint offices and simplified business practices.

Report of General Assembly Co-Chairs. In a 15 September letter to the Secretary-General [A/63/362], Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania, in their capacity as the Co-Chairs for the General Assembly consultations on System-wide Coherence, transmitted a 21 July report, which noted that the Delivering as one approach, despite remaining challenges, was making significant progress at the country level—as reported by the developing countries concerned—and that a large number of other developing countries were coming forward to embrace the approach even if there were no plans for formal designation of new pilot countries. It further noted the main reforms instituted by the approach, such as the agreement on “One Programmes” jointly prepared by the individual Governments concerned and the UN country teams, and the establishment of “One Funding” mechanisms and of “One Leader” for the UN family at the country level in the form of the Resident Coordinator, who was authorized to negotiate the One Programme with the host Government and shape the allocation of funding, while being subject to an accountability framework and oversight mechanisms. During the year, the Co-Chairs focused their efforts on four priority areas on system-wide coherence: UN Delivering as one at country level and the related area of harmonization of business practices; funding; governance; and gender equality and the empowerment of women. They recommended that the Assembly select and act upon those priority matters, which needed to be addressed in continuing discussions on system-wide coherence, and set aside other issues raised by the High-level Panel that were being pursued elsewhere. Other areas discussed in the report included the environment, humanitarian assistance and human rights.

The Co-Chairs concluded that the experience of Delivering as one at the country level (half-way through its second year) was positive, even if challenges remained with regard to the “four ones” (one programme, one budgetary framework, one leader and one office). They noted that the large and growing number of developing countries applying the approach and moving towards implementing resolution 62/208 shared that view. Important principles were being observed, including national ownership and leadership and “no one size fits all”. UN country team activities were being aligned to an unprecedented degree with the national development strategies and policies of the developing countries concerned. Moreover, assistance was being delivered with greater effectiveness, savings were being realized and greater reductions in transaction costs were in prospect. The Co-Chairs recommended that the Assembly facilitate a positive political impetus to Delivering as one, thereby encouraging the developing countries which had voluntarily embraced the approach, and enjoy the UN development system to pursue it.

On funding in the context of system-wide coherence, the Co-Chairs observed that there was a need for greater flows of and greater predictability in funding. They commended the development partners which had made concrete contributions to advancing the approach at the country level in response to the strategies, priorities, policies and plans of the developing countries concerned, yet cautioned that support for Delivering as one at the country level must not be at the expense of core funding to agencies through their Headquarters. Overall, there needed to be a significantly improved balance between core and non-core funding. On gender issues, the Co-Chairs recommended that their report be considered together with the institutional options paper subsequently provided by the Deputy Secretary-General to the Assembly in July (see p. 1271).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 September [meeting 122], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 62/277** [draft: A/62/L.51] without vote [agenda item 116].

System-wide coherence

The General Assembly,

Recalling the consensus 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also its consensus resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review,

Commending the pragmatic, transparent, balanced and inclusive approach taken by the Co-Chairs of the consultative follow-up process by the General Assembly on system-wide coherence, the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, to their work on behalf of the Assembly, which built

upon the efforts of their distinguished predecessors, the Permanent Representatives of Barbados and Luxembourg to the United Nations, at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly,

Having considered the paper on “Institutional options to strengthen United Nations work on gender equality and the empowerment of women”, which the Deputy Secretary-General provided to the President of the General Assembly on 23 July 2008 in response to a consensus request from Member States,

Looking forward to the independent evaluation foreseen in its resolution 62/208, which will help it to form a comprehensive view of the “Delivering as one” approach to the provision of development assistance through the United Nations system and, in the meantime, acknowledging the interim assessment of progress made and challenges remaining in this regard, as contained in the “Maputo Declaration”, issued in May 2008 by a number of least developed and middle income countries which have voluntarily embraced this approach,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence and the report of the Secretary-General containing his comments thereon;

2. *Welcomes* the report presented by the Co-Chairs of the consultative follow-up process by the General Assembly on system-wide coherence, the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, to the President of the General Assembly on 21 July 2008, the conclusions and recommendations of which are contained in the annex to the present resolution;

3. *Decides*, accordingly, that the continuing and deepening intergovernmental work of the General Assembly on system-wide coherence will focus exclusively and in an integrated manner on “Delivering as one” at country and regional levels, harmonization of business practices, funding, governance, and gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, drawing on the resources and expertise of the United Nations system and building on the outcome of its triennial comprehensive policy review, to provide to Member States substantive papers on the issues of funding and governance, as those issues arise in the context of system-wide coherence, with a view to facilitating substantive action by the General Assembly during the sixty-third session;

5. *Welcomes*, in this overall context, the paper on “Institutional options to strengthen United Nations work on gender equality and the empowerment of women”, which the Deputy Secretary-General provided to the President of the General Assembly on 23 July 2008, and requests the Secretary-General to provide a further, detailed modalities paper in respect of the options set out in the Deputy Secretary-General’s paper, covering funding, governance structure, staffing, specific functions, relationship with the Commission on the Status of Women and other relevant bodies and, having regard to the totality of views expressed by Member States in informal plenary consultations on 8 September 2008, focusing in particular on the “composite entity” option with a view to facilitating substantive action by the General Assembly during the sixty-third session;

6. *Resolves*, at the conclusion of its entire process on system-wide coherence, to review and take stock of all of its prior actions and deliberations in a single resolution or decision.

ANNEX

Conclusions and recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the consultative follow-up process by the General Assembly on system-wide coherence, the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

1. As the Co-Chairs for system-wide coherence at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly we have sought to conduct an open, transparent, balanced and inclusive process of consultations among the entire membership. Our aim has been to present a report that, by and large, will sit well with all parts of the Assembly in that all groupings of States should be able to feel that the report addresses seriously many of their principal priorities and concerns. In this way we have sought to facilitate a balanced and fair compromise outcome to the deliberations of the Assembly during the sixty-second session.

2. The following conclusions and recommendations flow from the present report overall, but are perhaps best seen in tandem with the introductory section. The landmark 2006 report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence, while a very important contribution to the work of the General Assembly to increase coherence across the United Nations system, did not launch that work. The Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit as well as consensus positions of the Assembly, not least the triennial comprehensive policy reviews, constitute much of the bedrock for building further progress in this area.

3. Since the outset of the sixty-second session, the broad membership has signalled that the continuing efforts on system-wide coherence should focus on four priority areas, namely (a) the United Nations delivering as one at the country level with the related aspect of harmonization of business practices; (b) funding; (c) governance; and (d) gender equality and the empowerment of women.

4. The present report should be taken together with the paper on gender (in its institutional dimension) which is being provided by the Secretary-General to Member States in response to their request of 16 June 2008.

5. As for “Delivering as one”, we have sought to provide the Member States with an accurate and up-to-date picture of the process as it is actually developing on the ground in upwards of thirty developing countries and not simply as it is perceived from afar. We have been helped in this by our on-the-ground consultations with Heads of State and Government, Cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, United Nations country teams, development partners and others in some eight developing countries. We have also conferred at length with United Nations agency heads in New York, Geneva, Rome, Paris and Vienna. We have taken careful note of the “Maputo Declaration” issued in May 2008 by pilot and other developing countries, in which they formally request the Assembly to encourage them in the “Delivering as one” approach that they have voluntarily embraced in partnership with the United Nations system.

6. Our conclusion is that the experience of “Delivering as one” to date (that is to say, halfway through its second year) at the country level is clearly and preponderantly positive, even if a number of challenges remain to be fully addressed in regard to each of the “four ones”. We note that this view is shared by the large and growing number of developing countries which are applying the “Delivering as one” approach and proactively moving towards implementing the consensus resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review. They state that important principles are in fact being observed in practice, including national ownership and leadership and “no one size fits all”. Through the “Delivering as one” approach United Nations country team activities are being aligned to an unprecedented degree with the national development strategies and policies of the developing countries concerned. Assistance is being delivered with greater effectiveness, savings are being realized and greater reductions in transaction costs are clearly in prospect.

7. At the same time the picture that emerges at present is interim in nature since the independent evaluation of “Delivering as one”, as foreseen by the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review, will come only towards the end of 2009 and, in any event, concrete development outputs arising from a new way of doing business take longer than eighteen months to emerge definitively.

8. It seems to us clear that the Assembly ought to be in a position during the sixty-second session to give a positive political impetus to “Delivering as one”, thereby giving encouragement to those many developing countries which have voluntarily embraced this approach, and to enjoin the United Nations development system to continue to pursue it. Moving forward, it will be essential to safeguard the principles underlying “Delivering as one”, in particular that of enhancing national ownership and leadership in the design and implementation of United Nations development system support programmes at the country level. The international community should by the same token be encouraged to continue to respond positively through additional commitments where the combination of strong national leadership and an empowered United Nations country team, delivering as one, together generate a better-aligned and more effective United Nations programme of support.

9. For the most part, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the system, at the leadership level, have gradually become increasingly engaged with and supportive of the “Delivering as one” approach. The atmosphere in which they collaborate within the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General has been transformed for the better as they and their collaborators continue consideration of the implications of the “four ones” (one programme, one budgetary framework and fund, one leader and one office) at the country level. At the same time, it is to be recommended that headquarters levels across the system empower the respective country-level agency representatives with much greater latitude, flexibility and encouragement to advance a more coherent and therefore more effective delivery of United Nations system assistance on the ground in line with the “Delivering as one” approach.

10. In all of this, the particular situations affecting middle-income countries should receive adequate attention.

11. Turning to the issue of funding in the context of system-wide coherence, there clearly need to be greater flows of and greater predictability in funding. In general, overall commitments made solemnly and repeatedly need to be implemented more faithfully. Commendation is due to those development partners which have made concrete contributions to advancing the “Delivering as one” approach at the country level in response to the strategies, priorities, policies and plans of the developing countries concerned. At the same time, support for “Delivering as one” at the country level must not be at the expense of core funding to agencies through their headquarters. Overall, there needs to be a significantly improved balance between core and non-core funding. Funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be invited, if necessary through changes in statute, rules and/or regulations, to give effect to the consensus view in the General Assembly that savings realized at the country level ought to be ploughed back into programmatic development work in the countries where the savings are realized. In this and in other ways, “Delivering as one” must deliver more.

12. As for intergovernmental governance at the central level, we have detected no palpable appetite in the General Assembly for establishing new intergovernmental bodies, including the putative Sustainable Development Board which was recommended by the High-level Panel. At the same time the new realities emerging from a growing number of developing countries applying the “Delivering as one” approach at the country level will need to be accommodated and addressed more effectively by the existing boards and not least by the Economic and Social Council. In the light of the ongoing and emerging nature of the “Delivering as one” approach, it may be necessary to continue and to deepen discussion of these issues during the sixty-third session.

13. If, in that context, the Assembly focuses first on the functions that need to be discharged centrally and intergovernmentally in the “Delivering as one” approach, it will perhaps then be easier to address the question of which institutions, as these continue to adapt, are best placed to discharge the functions in question.

14. We also believe that the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions ought to be consistently encouraged to develop, in a pragmatic manner, a far greater degree of cooperation and collaboration in the context described in the present report. Some progress is already being made. This needs to be developed and enlarged.

15. As for gender equality and the empowerment of women, we recommend that the Assembly be invited to address the matter, including in the light of the Secretary-General’s paper on the institutional dimension, in open, informal plenary consultations at an early opportunity, perhaps early in September. During the sixty-second session the Member States have advanced together, by agreement, in their consideration of the issue of gender equality and women’s empowerment. With assistance from the Secretary-General, they have identified critical gaps in the way the system assists Member States in implementing globally agreed mandates and their own internationally made commitments in this area. With further open and genuine

discussion the Assembly may be in a position, before the conclusion of its sixty-second session, to signal in general terms, but nevertheless clearly, which institutional option or combination of options, perhaps with adjustments, it wishes to pursue. Detailed working through of such an agreed approach could then be taken up and completed at the sixty-third session. We have the very strong impression that no Government, whether for substantive or “tactical” reasons, would wish to stand in the way of a consensus to advance the issue of gender equality and the empowerment of women through a measured but significant step forward.

16. We believe that in the light of the present report and the Secretary-General’s options paper on gender equality and the empowerment of women (in its institutional aspect) Member States ought to be equipped for decision-making during the sixty-second session. With these substantive elements in hand, Member States are also better placed to weigh the format of the decision-making of the Assembly.

17. In the first instance, and on the basis of the foregoing report and these conclusions, Member States may, during the sixty-second session, wish to address, perhaps in a package decision, the four core priority areas listed in paragraph 3 above, which they have highlighted throughout.

18. The same decision could signal that henceforth, in the context of intergovernmental discussion on system-wide coherence, the Assembly will focus exclusively on these priority areas and will exclude from this context the issues of environment/environmental governance, humanitarian assistance and human rights, in line with the considerations set out in the present report.

Comprehensive accountability architecture

The General Assembly, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome [YUN 2005, p. 48], had requested the Secretary-General to take a number of actions for strengthening the United Nations in the context of the Secretariat’s management reform, including establishing effective and efficient mechanisms for accountability. In that regard and pursuant to Assembly resolutions 59/272 [ibid., p. 1370] and 61/245 [YUN 2006, p. 1573], the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/62/701 & Corr.1] on the accountability framework, the enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and the results-based management framework, which included measures taken to strengthen accountability in the Secretariat. It proposed a comprehensive accountability architecture that encompassed three key elements of institutional and personal accountability: performance, compliance and integrity that reflected the Organization’s commitment to achieving results while respecting its regulations, rules and ethical standards. The proposed architecture would build on the existing accountability framework, which was the chain of responsibility, authority and accountability that flowed institutionally from the intergovernmental organs to the Secretary-General, and personally to managers and

staff. The architecture would include a new dimension for enterprise risk management and internal control, enabling the Secretariat to take a systematic approach to identify, assess, evaluate, prioritize, manage and control risk across the Organization. It would also reflect a fully developed results-based management framework, including improved and more frequent monitoring and evaluation.

The report illustrated synergies among the Secretariat’s accountability framework, the enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and the results-based management framework, and explained how those tools complemented ongoing management reform and would collectively lead to the integrated and comprehensive accountability architecture. Under that architecture, the Assembly could more readily hold the Secretariat accountable for its activities and results, including the management of financial and human resources and programmatic activities. The Organization would focus on results rather than inputs and outputs of efforts and processes, with emphasis on ethical conduct and compliance with regulations and rules. As part of a review of the Secretariat’s accountability framework, a survey was conducted to gauge staff perceptions of accountability. Results of the survey, which were annexed to the report, indicated that 88 per cent of respondents were generally in support of change. The report included proposals on how the Secretariat should respond to the support for change through the comprehensive accountability architecture.

The Secretary-General concluded that the proposed accountability architecture responded to calls for change and answered the concerns of Secretariat staff and Member States. In that regard, managerial tools had been and would continue to be developed to help in the mechanics of assessing risk, monitoring staff and performance, evaluating activities for lessons learned and educating for the achievement of results. He planned to establish a working group of the Management Performance Board [YUN 2005, p. 1468]—the Accountability for Results Working Group—that would be responsible for regularly monitoring and actively guiding senior managers to reach expected results and comprised of three or four members from Secretariat departments or offices. The findings of the Working Group would be reported to the Board with recommendations for concrete action to be taken. On enterprise risk management, the Secretary-General proposed further consultation to incorporate feedback and commentary from the multiple parties that would be involved in the process to implement and maintain the enterprise risk management and internal control framework, including the launch of a pilot project to establish and communicate standards and guidelines for risk management for staff at all levels and to integrate the concepts into areas of highest

risk. On results-based management, he proposed to establish a dedicated capacity responsible for advising, supporting and monitoring departments to ensure its complete implementation. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly endorse the proposed comprehensive accountability architecture; the concept of an integrated framework for enterprise risk management and internal control; and the results-based management framework, including the proposal for a dedicated capacity responsible for its implementation.

In a 26 February report [A/62/701/Add.1], the Secretary-General presented the additional resource requirements (\$3 million) and organizational changes that would be necessitated if the Assembly endorsed the proposals contained in his report.

ACABQ report. In September [A/63/457], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) noted that the Secretary-General's report did not concretely explain how the proposed accountability frameworks would lead to a strengthened, better managed and more accountable Organization; specific timelines or benchmarks were not consistently provided; and the relationships between the various proposals or their linkage to existing structures were not clearly demonstrated. Other areas of concern included the lack of recourse to the expertise available within the UN system; the overlap of the consultants' findings with a previous report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) (see below); the lack of clarity in the definition of accountability, which was one of the fundamental weaknesses in the Secretary-General's accountability architecture; the need for establishing a concrete set of measures to ensure implementation of recommendations from oversight bodies by senior management; and the lack of specific measures identified for improving personal and institutional accountability. In addition, the report responded only partially to key aspects of what was requested by the Assembly, focusing primarily on only one of the six points set out in the Secretary-General's 2006 governance report [YUN 2006, p. 1572], namely, assessment of current policies with respect to accountability and identification of omissions of weaknesses that needed to be addressed.

While noting the Secretary-General's efforts to address accountability, internal control and management practices, ACABQ recommended that those issues be further discussed with other UN system organizations through the High-level Committee on Management of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and the oversight bodies, and that use should be made of expertise within the UN system. It also recommended that the Assembly endorse the proposals on the concept of an integrated framework for enterprise risk management and internal control,

and on the results-based management framework. ACABQ recommended against the proposed establishment of a dedicated capacity for implementation of results-based management, the proposed changes to the organizational structure of the Secretariat and the approval of the resources requested.

On 24 December, the Assembly deferred consideration of the Secretary-General's reports until its resumed sixty-third (2009) session (**decision 63/550**).

Results-based management

In February, the Secretary-General transmitted a note [A/62/704] to the General Assembly containing his comments on the 2006 JIU report on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process [YUN 2006, p. 1652], which was circulated to the Assembly in March 2007 [A/61/805]. The report, which aimed to assess UN capability to apply that management strategy with a view to highlighting best practices and identifying challenges and constraints for successfully applying a results-based approach, summarized the evolution of results-based management in the United Nations and the status of its implementation, and provided an analysis of that status versus the JIU results-based management benchmarking framework. The report examined 37 benchmarks relating to planning, evaluation and reporting cycles; delegation of authority; accountability; performance management; and contractual arrangements. It resulted in 18 recommendations for consideration by the Assembly and the Secretary-General.

In his note, the Secretary-General indicated that he was committed to the full implementation of a Secretariat-wide results-based management strategy in accordance with Assembly mandates and within the limitations of available resources. He added that the recommendations in the JIU report were taken into consideration for the development of the proposed results-based management framework presented in his report on the subject (see p. 1519), which aimed at improving the governance and oversight of the Organization and the effectiveness and accountability of management.

OIOS report. In its review of results-based management at the United Nations [A/63/268], the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) reported that the introduction of results-based management in the Secretariat had been dealt with as an addition to the myriad rules and procedural requirements that governed inputs, activities, monitoring and reporting. It had not been accompanied by any relaxation of the volume, scope or detail of regulatory frameworks pertaining to financial, programmatic and human resource management. OIOS highlighted the shortcomings of results-based management in its original

design, as reflected in Assembly resolution 55/231 [YUN 2000, p. 1295] on results-based budgeting, which was inadequate because it barred the use of indicators of achievement for adjustment of resources and reiterated limitations on the Secretary-General's authority to shift resources between post and non-post budget lines. The Office observed that the introduction of results-based management had brought a superficial orientation to outcomes and that the culture of the Organization remained focused on compliance. Progress in implementing results-based management needed to begin with renewed reform of the budget system. While results-based management had been an administrative chore of little value to accountability and decision-making, OIOS recognized that it would, at some level, remain an aspiration for the Organization and provided six recommendations: establish a policy framework to outline the eventual extent and limitations of results-based management at the UN Secretariat; initiate a review and revision to the rules and regulations pertaining to programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; consolidate the Secretary-General's reporting obligations to the General Assembly; integrate programmatic results frameworks within the first phase of the Organization's enterprise resource planning strategy; update and revise the range of output categories subject to planning and monitoring; and strengthen the technical and methodological capacities of the Organization.

By **decision 63/550** of 24 December, the Assembly deferred consideration of the JIU report, the Secretary-General's related comments and the OIOS report until its resumed sixty-third (2009) session.

Mandate review

In response to a letter prepared by the General Assembly President in November 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 1419] setting out the parameters and principles for continuing the mandate review process initiated in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1574], the Co-Chairs of the process developed a methodology for carrying out the work, which was based on the existing nine clusters of mandates and included the review of 279 mandates of the humanitarian assistance cluster and 52 mandates of the Africa development cluster. In a letter dated 8 August 2008, the Assembly President transmitted to Member States the final report of the Co-Chairs, which classified 43 mandates for discontinuation, presented an evaluation of the mandate review process, and made recommendations on options for future work.

On the analysis of the two clusters, 35 of the 279 humanitarian assistance mandates and 8 of the 52 Africa development mandates were classified for discontinuation. The Co-Chairs identified benefits of the review process such as Member States' increased

awareness of the range of existing mandates and their sharpened interest in wider mandate and budget cycle issues of implementation and accountability. However, the benefits derived from the process were insufficient to justify the continuation of the review in its current format as it was not possible within the existing UN mandate and budget cycle to identify resources that could be reallocated. The Co-Chairs also reported that the analysis of the two clusters had revealed the extent to which the mandate registry was flawed—it had not been updated or maintained since mid-2006. Since the registry, which listed some 9,046 mandates (5,594 older than five years), would remain an essential source of information and foundation for analysis, the Co-Chairs recommended that the Secretariat be requested to establish a permanent capacity to update and maintain the registry. On future work, the Co-Chairs observed that there was a need to improve the management of mandates, yet noted obstacles to an effective mandate review process, namely the ambiguity over ownership and primary responsibility for mandates among implementing agencies and the disconnect between the mandate cycle and the budget cycle, which meant that resources implications of mandates were not transparent or fully traceable. Other concerns included the lack of clarity around mandate interpretation, accountability and follow-up, both from a Member State perspective and the Secretariat viewpoint. The Co-Chairs recommended that Member States consider making a comprehensive analysis of the mandate cycle.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 September [meeting 122], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 62/278** [draft: A/62/L.52] without vote [agenda item 116].

Mandate review

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 163 (b) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, regarding mandate review,

Welcoming the last review process, initiated in 2007 by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, in a letter dated 6 November 2007, as well as the previous processes conducted during the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions,

Having considered the final report of the Co-Chairs of the mandate review process during the sixty-second session, dated 8 August 2008,

1. *Takes note* of the final report of the Co-Chairs of the mandate review process during the sixty-second session, including on the review of the thematic clusters relating to the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance and the development of Africa;

2. *Recognizes* the usefulness of the existing online mandate registry, and decides to maintain it as an accessible working tool for Member States and to revert to the issue in

the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

3. *Notes* that one of the important findings of the process is the difficulty of identifying resources associated with one particular mandate, which limited the potential of the review process to fulfil its objective of strengthening and updating the programme of work of the Organization and improving the allocation of resources for the effective implementation of mandates;

4. *Calls upon* its relevant bodies and subsidiary organs, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the established regulations and rules governing programme planning, to continue improving the implementation of mandates and addressing the continuing validity of legislative decisions and the effective coordination among units of the Secretariat and other structures of the United Nations system.

Strengthening of UN system

In follow-up to General Assembly resolution 60/283 [YUN 2006, p. 1580] on investing in the United Nations for a stronger Organization worldwide, the Secretary General submitted reports on investing in information and communications technology (ICT): information and communications strategy for the United Nations Secretariat [A/62/793 & Corr.1] (see p. 1589), including the related addendum [A/62/793/Add.1] (see p. 1590); and on ICT: enterprise systems for the United Nations Secretariat worldwide [A/62/510/Rev.1]. Also before the Assembly was the report of the activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee [A/63/328] (see p. 1562).

By **resolution 63/261** of 24 December (see p. 49), the Assembly took action on strengthening the Department of Political Affairs. On the same date, the Assembly decided that the item on strengthening the UN system would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session (**decision 63/552**).

Institutional matters

Intergovernmental machinery

Revitalization of General Assembly work

In accordance with resolution 58/316 [YUN 2004, p. 1374], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/62/915] on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, which outlined the draft programme of work of the plenary and five of the six Main Committees of the Assembly for its sixty-third (2008) session. An addendum to the report [A/62/915/Add.1] contained the status of documentation for that session as at 11 August 2008.

Working Group report. Pursuant to resolution 61/292 [YUN 2007, p. 1421], the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly submitted a September report [A/62/952], which summarized its activities and presented recommendations for further progress. The Working Group held seven meetings during the year and conducted its work programme in three stages: a general discussion and exchange of views on all issues related to revitalization; a general discussion on the status of implementation of relevant Assembly resolutions on revitalization; and a detailed analysis of the status of implementation, based on an inventory/chart of all relevant provisions contained in resolutions on revitalization since the fifty-first session (2000) of the Assembly. The Working Group conducted a cluster-by-cluster examination of the chart as follows: Cluster I (working methods, documentation, agenda), Cluster II (selection of the Secretary-General) and Cluster III (role and authority of the General Assembly), which were subdivided into different thematic areas. The Working Group identified a set of elements that appeared to be common areas requiring additional attention from Member States. It recommended that the process of implementation of relevant provisions on revitalization be continued and carefully monitored and, in that connection, presented practical proposals toward that effort. The Working Group also observed that further consideration was needed on the question of modern technologies, including the Assembly voting system. In that regard, the Secretariat could update previous documents on the subject, or present other proposals corresponding with arrangements made in the context of the capital master plan.

In an addendum to the report [A/62/952/Add.1], the Working Group transmitted to the Assembly three annexes that formed an integral part of its report, including the inventory/chart of Assembly resolutions on revitalization.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 September [meeting 122], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 62/276** [A/62/952] without a vote [agenda item 121].

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 of 1 July 2004, 59/313 of 12 September 2005, 60/286 of 8 September 2006 and 61/292 of 2 August 2007,

Stressing the importance of implementing resolutions on the revitalization of its work,

Recognizing the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly established by resolution 61/292;

2. *Decides* to establish, at its sixty-third session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(a) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on previous resolutions;

(b) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

On 24 December, the Assembly decided that the item on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session (**decision 63/552**).

Review of Security Council membership and related matters

The Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council submitted a report of its work during 13 formal meetings held between December 2007 and September 2008 [A/62/47]. At its first and second meetings (14 December 2007), the Chairperson of the Working Group announced the appointment of a task force to interact with Member States, who were invited to identify negotiables that could serve as a basis for intergovernmental negotiations. In April 2008, the Chairperson forwarded to Member States the replies he had received in writing from delegations, as well as from several regional and interest groups. At the third and fourth meetings (10 April), Member States discussed various elements contained in the written contributions and the Chairperson announced that under his leadership, the task force would engage in extensive consultations with Member States to assess the situation and identify options for moving forward with Security Council reform. Following those consultations, on 9 June, the task force submitted a report entitled, "Report of the Vice-Chairpersons to the President of the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council", which was forwarded to Member States. At the Working Group's fifth and sixth meetings (17 June), Member States discussed the report. On 2 September, at its seventh and eighth meetings, the Working Group considered its draft report to the Assembly. The Chairperson invited Member States to put forward amendments and to conduct intensive

and constructive consultations in order to reach an agreement on the recommendations. At its ninth to twelfth meetings (10, 12 and 15 September), the Working Group further considered its draft report to the Assembly, which was adopted at the final meeting on 15 September.

By **decision 62/557** of 15 September, the Assembly took note of the Working Group's report and decided to continue to address, within the Group, the framework and modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council. It decided to commence such negotiations in an informal Assembly plenary, based on proposals by Member States, during its sixty-third session, no later than 28 February 2009. The Assembly urged the Working Group to exert efforts during that session to achieve general agreement among Member States on all issues relevant to the aforementioned question and other Council-related matters. It requested the Group's Chairperson to present the results of the consultations to an informal Assembly plenary session, no later than 1 February 2009, and requested the Working Group to submit a report to the Assembly before the end of its sixty-third session, including any agreed recommendations.

On 24 December, the Assembly decided that the item on equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session (**decision 63/552**).

Institutional machinery

General Assembly

The General Assembly met throughout 2008; it resumed and concluded its sixty-second session and held the major part of its sixty-third session. The sixty-second session resumed in plenary meetings on 12 and 13 February; 4 and 31 March; 2–4, 18 and 29 April; 15 and 21 May; 4, 6, 10–12 and 20 June; 8, 11, 18, 21, 23 and 28 July; and 4–5, 11 and 15 September. The sixty-third session opened on 16 September and continued until its suspension on 24 December.

The Assembly held a High-level debate on climate change (11–12 February) (see p. 1164); a High-level event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (1–2 April); and a High-level debate on management reform (8–9 April). High-level meetings also took place on HIV/AIDS (10–12 June) (see p. 1329); implementation of the new partnership for Africa's development (22 September) (see p. 1009); Africa's development needs (22 September) (*ibid.*); meeting the MDGs

(25 September) (see p. 926); the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action on landlocked developing countries (2–3 October) (see p. 949); and a High-level meeting on the culture of peace (12–13 November) (see p. 1217). It also held an interactive panel on the global financial crisis (30 October) (see p. 1068). On 10 December, the General Assembly held a commemorative meeting to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see p. 727).

Organization of Assembly sessions

2008 sessions

By **decision 63/501** of 16 September, the General Assembly authorized a number of subsidiary bodies to meet in New York during the main part of its sixty-third session. By **decision 63/502** of 19 September, the Assembly adopted a number of provisions concerning the organization of the sixty-third session [A/63/250 & Corr.1].

Credentials

The Credentials Committee, at its meeting on 19 December [A/63/633], had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, which indicated that 124 Member States had submitted the formal credentials of their representatives. Information concerning the representatives of 67 other Member States had also been communicated. One Member State (Guinea) had not made any communication to the Secretary-General.

The Committee adopted a resolution accepting the credentials received and recommended a draft resolution to the General Assembly for adoption. On 23 December, the Assembly, by **resolution 63/238**, approved the Committee's report.

Agenda

During its resumed sixty-second (2008) session, the General Assembly, by **decision 62/503 B**, decided to include an additional item on the agenda of the session and decided on those items to be considered directly in plenary and those on which consideration would be reopened. The Assembly, by decisions on 3 April (**decision 62/545 B**), 20 June (**decision 62/545 C**), and 15 September (**decisions 62/554**, **62/555** and **62/556**), decided on those items to be deferred to its sixty-third (2008) session.

At its sixty-third session, the Assembly, by **decision 63/503** of 19 September, adopted, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/63/250 & Corr.1 & Add.1], the agenda [A/63/251] and the allocation of items [A/63/252], including those to be deferred and

included in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth (2009) session. By the same decision, it decided to consider in the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee agenda item 58 on the report of the Human Rights Council. The Assembly also decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third (2008) session additional items entitled "Judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991", "Recognition of sickle-cell anaemia as a public health priority", "Granting of observer status for the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in the General Assembly", and "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference".

On 2 December (**decision 63/520**), the Assembly, by a recorded vote of 130 to 3, with 46 abstentions, included in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth (2009) session the item "United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament" (see p. 566). On the same date, by **decisions 63/518** and **63/519** respectively, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the items entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" and "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

By its **decision 63/552** of 24 December, the Assembly decided to retain 74 items on the agenda of its resumed sixty-third (2009) session. On the same date (**decision 63/550**), the Assembly deferred until its resumed sixty-third session its consideration of items and related documents concerning the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations; the programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009; and the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.

On 2 December, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth (2010) session the item entitled "Maintenance of international security—good neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe" (**decision 63/517**).

Resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

By **decision 63/507** of 27 October, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations" and included it in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth (2009) session.

First, Second, Third, Fourth and Sixth Committees

The General Assembly, on 2 December, approved the proposed programme of work and timetable of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee for the sixty-fourth (2009) session (**decision 63/521**). On 5 December, the Assembly approved the programme of work and timetable of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee for the sixty-fourth session (**decision 63/527**). On 11 December, the Assembly noted that the Sixth (Legal) Committee had adopted its provisional programme of work (**decision 63/529**) for 2009. On 18 and 19 December, the Assembly approved, respectively, the programme of work for the Third Committee (**decision 63/537**) and the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee (**decision 63/545**) for the sixty-fourth session.

Security Council

The Security Council held 244 formal meetings in 2008, adopted 65 resolutions and issued 48 presidential statements. It considered 60 agenda items (see APPENDIX IV). The President also made 47 statements to the press on behalf of Council members. Monthly assessments on the work of the Council in 2008 were issued by the successive Council Presidents [S/2008/158, S/2008/499, S/2008/355, S/2008/579, S/2008/572, S/2008/580, S/2008/581, S/2008/596, S/2008/108, S/2008/696, S/2009/96, S/2009/328]. In a 22 September note [A/63/300], the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, and with the consent of the Security Council, notified the General Assembly of 105 matters relative to the maintenance of peace and security that the Council had discussed since his previous annual notification [YUN 2007, p. 1424]. The Assembly, on 18 November, took note of the Secretary-General's note (**decision 63/514**). On 20 November, the Assembly took note of the Council's report for the period of 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 [A/63/2] (**decision 63/515**).

Membership

The General Assembly continued to examine the question of expanding the Security Council membership. In that regard, it considered the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council [A/62/47]. The Assembly took action with regard to the report in **decision 62/557** of 15 September (see p. 1523).

Working methods

In a 20 June letter [S/2008/418] to the Security Council President, Switzerland on behalf of the S-5 Group (Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland) requested the Council to convene a meeting on improving the working methods of the Council. In a 4 August letter [S/2008/528] to the Secretary-General, Belgium transmitted a concept paper for the open debate of the Council on implementation of the measures set out in the 19 July 2006 note by the Council President [YUN 2007, p. 1424], which aimed to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the Council's work, as well as its interaction and dialogue with non-Council members. The concept paper proposed that the debate could focus on the implementation of concrete measures in three specific and interrelated fields: transparency, interaction with non-Council members and efficiency. It also provided an overview on the implementation status of measures in each of those areas.

The Security Council debate [meeting 5968] was held on 27 August and some 45 speakers participated in the discussion, including the Secretary-General. In closing, the Council President observed that the debate provided an opportunity for all—in particular non-members of the Council—to state their views on the functioning of the Council. He noted that most delegations highlighted the key role of the Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions and urged the Group to benefit from the debate in order to return to the Council as soon as possible with a specific outcome.

In a 31 December note [S/2008/847], the Security Council President outlined the working methods for matters of which the Security Council was seized (seizure statement). The note contained consolidated and revised provisions of paragraph 49 of the 2006 note by the Council President and of paragraphs 5 to 7 of the 2007 note of the Council President [YUN 2007, p. 1424]. The 2008 note reiterated the desirability, when possible, of the use of descriptive formulations of agenda items at the time of their adoption. At the end of each year, the Council would review the seizure statement to determine if the Council had concluded consideration of any of the listed items or if any items should be deleted from the statement. Items not considered by the Council during the preceding three calendar years would also be deleted. The preliminary annual summary statement issued each January by the Secretary-General would identify those items to be deleted from the list, and the first seizure statement issued in March of each year would reflect the deletion of those items—unless a Member State notified the Council President by the end of February that it requested that an item remain on the seizure statement. The item would then remain on

the statement for one year, unless the Council decided otherwise. The deletion of an item did not imply that the item in question could not be taken up by the Council in the future. The first seizure statement of each month would contain a full and updated list of items of which the Council was seized; yet for intervening weeks, a weekly addendum would be issued, listing only those items on which the Council took further action during the previous week, or indicated there was no change during that period.

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council held its organizational session for 2008 on 14 January and 5 and 8 February; a resumed organizational session on 29 April and 12 and 20 June; a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 14 April; and a special meeting on the global food crisis from 20 to 22 May, all in New York. It held its substantive session from 30 June to 25 July and its resumed substantive session on 12 September and 19 December, in New York. The work of the Council in 2008 was covered in its report to the General Assembly [A/63/3/Rev.1].

On 14 and 17 January, the Council elected its Bureau (a President and four Vice-Presidents) for 2008 and adopted the agenda of the organizational session [E/2008/2 & Add.1 & Add.1/Corr.1].

On 5 February, the Council decided on the working arrangements for its 2008 substantive session (**decision 2008/206**) and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for that session (**decision 2008/204**). On 30 June it adopted the agenda [E/2008/100] and approved the programme of work of that session [E/2008/L.5] (**decision 2008/214**).

On 8 February, the Council decided that the theme for the 2008 thematic discussion for the high-level segment would be “Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development, taking into account current challenges” (**decision 2008/208**).

The General Assembly, by **decision 63/552** of 24 December, decided that the Council’s report would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session.

Sessions and segments

During 2008, the Economic and Social Council adopted 38 resolutions and 67 decisions. By **decision 2008/206**, the Council decided that the high-level segment would be held from 30 June to 3 July; the

coordination segment from 7 to 9 July; the operational activities segment from 10 to 14 July; the humanitarian affairs segment from 15 to 17 July; and the general segment from 18 to 24 July. It also decided to conclude its work on 25 July. On 5 February, the Council decided that the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD would be held in New York on 14 April (**decision 2008/203**).

2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 sessions

On 5 February, the Council decided that the work of the operational activities segment of its 2008 substantive session would be devoted to the progress on and implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 [YUN 2007, p. 877] on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system (**decision 2008/207**). On 8 February (**decision 2008/209**), it decided that the theme for the regional cooperation item would be “The regional dimension of the themes of the high-level segment for 2008”. On 29 April (**decision 2008/213**), the Council decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment would be “Building capabilities and capacities at all levels for timely humanitarian assistance, including disaster risk reduction” and that it would convene two panels, one on “Disaster risk reduction and preparedness: addressing the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change” and the other on “Humanitarian challenges related to global food aid, including enhancing international efforts and cooperation in this field”.

On 25 July, by **decision 2008/256**, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits (see p. 1527). On the same date, the Council decided that the theme for its 2009 thematic discussion would be “Current global and national trends and their impact on social development, including public health” (**decision 2008/257**), and adopted the themes for its annual ministerial-level substantive reviews for the 2010 and 2011 sessions, respectively: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women; and implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education (**decision 2008/258**).

Work programme

On 5 February, the Council took note of the list of questions for inclusion in its programme of work for 2009 [E/2008/1] (**decision 2008/205**).

Coordination, monitoring and cooperation

Institutional mechanisms

CEB activities

According to its annual overview report for 2008/09 [E/2009/67], the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) addressed a number of emerging and important programme issues, particularly the global financial and economic crisis, climate change, and the UN development and resident coordinator system. In response to the unfolding global economic crisis, CEB agreed on nine key areas in a joint initiative that encompassed: additional financing for the most vulnerable; food security; trade; a green economy initiative; a global jobs pact; a social protection floor; humanitarian action, security and social stability; technology and innovation; and monitoring and analysis. On climate change, CEB reported that steps were taken to identify focus and cross-cutting areas for coordination and action. CEB was developing a system-wide approach to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to prepare for inter-governmental discussions at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. The Board also endorsed the management and accountability framework for the UN development and resident coordinator system, including a functional firewall for the resident coordinator system. The agreement established a vision to guide the creation of a more efficient UN development system. Other areas of focus included working together in crisis and post-crisis countries; the need to strengthen the UN security framework to protect staff and allow operations to continue in insecure and unstable environments; and the development of a plan of action for the harmonization of UN system business practices.

CEB held two regular sessions in 2008: the first in Bern, Switzerland (28 April) [CEB/2008/1] and the second in New York (24 October) [CEB/2008/2]. Its principal subsidiary bodies met as follows: the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), fifteenth (Rome, 17–18 March) [CEB/2008/3] and sixteenth (New York, 18–19 September) [CEB/2008/5] sessions; and the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), fifteenth (Rome, 13–14 March) [CEB/2008/4] and sixteenth (Rome, 30 September and 1 October) [CEB/2008/6] sessions.

CEB report

CPC consideration. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) [A/63/16] considered the CEB annual overview report for 2007/2008 [YUN

2007, p. 1426]. CPC recommended that the Secretary-General ensure that the CEB annual overview report included information on measures taken by the Board to improve its transparency and accountability and that future reports provided specific information on the main difficulties encountered in the implementation of coordination activities in different sectors, as well as on the relevant solutions adopted and the impact of CEB activities on the UN system. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request CEB to continue to monitor the effective collaboration of system-wide efforts against hunger and poverty and to report on the progress achieved regarding the difficulties encountered by UN system entities in addressing malnutrition and hunger. Noting the CEB endorsement of the recommendation for an evaluation of the eight “Delivering as one” pilot projects [YUN 2006, p. 1584], the Committee stressed the importance of an independent, objective and impartial evaluation process and that any criteria and methodology to assess the impact of those projects should first be considered and approved by Member States.

On 21 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the CEB annual overview report for 2007/08 (**decision 2008/221**).

Programme coordination

The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) held an organizational meeting on 30 April and its forty-eighth session from 9 June to 3 July, all in New York [A/63/16].

CPC considered questions related to programme performance of the United Nations for the 2006–2007 biennium and the proposed 2010–2011 strategic framework. It considered the in-depth evaluation of political affairs, and two triennial reviews, one on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and the other on the evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities. In addition, CPC considered the Secretary-General’s report on UN system support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (see p. 1012), as well as improving its working methods and procedures.

On 21 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the CPC report (**decision 2008/221**).

Other coordination matters

Follow-up to international conferences

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/29 [YUN 2007, p. 1427], the Secretary-General submitted a June report [A/63/83-E/2008/77] on the Council’s role in the

integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits, which highlighted the central role of the annual ministerial review as a forum for all stakeholders to assess progress in overall implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. The annual ministerial review, launched in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 1427], examined cross-cutting themes common to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and was considered the most effective way for the Council to make progress in the integrated conference follow-up. The report also discussed the progress made on the conference follow-up as it related to the theme of the 2008 annual ministerial review, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development". In other developments, several procedural improvements in the follow-up of conferences had facilitated progress in advancing an integrated approach in the substantive work of Council machinery; the Council and its subsidiary bodies had increased their interaction; and the functional commissions had completed examining their methods of work.

The Secretary-General proposed the adoption of a multi-year programme of work for the annual ministerial review to facilitate engagement by the Council system. The report also suggested that the Council consider making the report triennial to provide a reasonable time period before the next overall review of the integrated conference follow-up. Other recommendations pertained to promoting policy coherence at the intergovernmental level; reporting on the integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences; linking normative and operational work; strengthening the relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO; and creating partnerships and alliances with all stakeholders.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 43], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2008/29** [draft: E/2008/L.29] without vote [agenda item 4].

Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995 and 2002/1 of 26 July 2002 and its relevant resolutions on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including its resolutions 2006/44 of 28 July 2006, 2007/8 of 25 July 2007 and 2007/29 of 27 July 2007, its decisions 2006/206 of 10 February 2006

and 2006/274 of 15 December 2006 and General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/265 of 30 June 2006 and 61/16 of 20 November 2006,

Recalling also the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and the review of their implementation in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming the need to fully implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard expressing its determination to enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit, in particular for strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council through its new functions,

Recalling that the Council should increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development, and reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission on sustainable development within the United Nations system and to serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, as called for in Assembly resolution 61/16,

Recognizing the important role of a strengthened Council, in accordance with Assembly resolution 61/16, in promoting integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences and summits,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16,

1. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to strengthen the Economic and Social Council as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and thus promote the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 50/227, 57/270 B and 61/16;

2. *Welcomes* the holding of the first Development Cooperation Forum and the second annual ministerial review as steps forward in the strengthening of the Council;

3. *Recognizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation between the Council and its functional commissions, the regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies so as to allow the Council to carry out more effectively its crucial role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination;

4. *Encourages* the functional commissions to continue to explore ways to engage agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system more systematically in their work within their respective mandates;

5. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute, within their respective mandates, to the work of the Council, as appropri-

ate, including to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in accordance with relevant Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16;

6. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and emphasizes that the interaction should be further improved;

7. *Stresses* that the preparation of the annual ministerial review should be fully supported by the United Nations system, especially the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with the respective mandates, as appropriate, in coordination with national Governments;

8. *Requests* the functional commissions, the regional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council, in accordance with their mandates, as appropriate, to contribute to the annual ministerial review and to the Development Cooperation Forum, in the context of their respective annual work plans, taking into account their specificities;

9. *Stresses* the important contribution of civil society in the implementation of conference outcomes, and emphasizes that the contribution of non-governmental organizations and the private sector to the work of the Council should be further encouraged and improved, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Council;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on measures taken to implement the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the Council for consideration by the Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of the following year;

11. *Decides* to review the periodicity of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant Assembly resolutions, at its substantive session of 2009, with a view towards further enhancing the effectiveness of the report;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the above-mentioned subject for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2009.

On 24 December, the General Assembly decided that the item on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session (**decision 63/552**).

UN and other organizations

Cooperation with organizations

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/316 [YUN 2004, p. 1374], the Secretary-General submitted an August consolidated report [A/63/228-S/2008/531 & Corr.1] on cooperation between the United Nations

and regional and other organizations, including the African Union (see p. 108); the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (see p. 1478); the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (see p. 1115); the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (see p. 1121); the Caribbean Community (see p. 350); the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries (see below); the Council of Europe (see p. 472); the Economic Cooperation Organization (see p. 1116); the Eurasian Economic Community (see p. 1120); the International Organization of la Francophonie (see p. 1534); the Inter-Parliamentary Union (see p. 1536); the League of Arab States (see p. 1531); the Organization of the Islamic Conference (see p. 1532); the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (see p. 609); the Pacific Islands Forum (see p. 1117); the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (see p. 581); and the Southern African Development Community (see p. 328).

On 24 December, by **decision 63/552**, the Assembly decided that the item on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session.

Community of Portuguese-speaking countries

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/223 [YUN 2006, p. 1598], the Secretary-General reported [A/63/228-S/2008/531 & Corr.1] on cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP). Since 2006, Brazil and the World Food Programme (WFP) had spearheaded efforts to provide capacity development assistance for school feeding programmes in lusophone African countries. Senior officials from the Brazilian Ministry of Education and WFP met several times with high-level government officials in Angola, Cape Verde and Mozambique to identify needs for such technical assistance. The Portuguese Language Unit of Radio and Television Service of the UN Department of Public Information, in a cooperative arrangement with CPLP, continued to broadcast daily news bulletins and weekly magazine programmes reaching a worldwide audience of more than 230 million Portuguese-speaking people, via some 1,500 radio stations.

In a 20 August letter to the Assembly, Portugal, on behalf of the Presidency of CPLP, submitted its report [A/63/343], which discussed progress achieved in the cooperation between CPLP and 9 UN system entities, including the finalization of a protocol between CPLP and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. In partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), CPLP deployed efforts to introduce the issue of Guinea-Bissau onto the agenda of the Peace-

building Commission. Subsequently, CPLP, ECOWAS, Portugal and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) initiated the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau to support peacebuilding efforts in the country. CPLP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development signed a cooperation agreement to combat rural poverty in Portuguese-speaking developing countries. CPLP activities also included a March conference on international security challenges and cooperation within the Community, organized by the CPLP executive secretariat in partnership with the Defence Commission of the Portuguese Parliament. On 25 April, CPLP and the Portuguese Unit of UN Radio signed an agreement, which called for the exchange of information on the signatories' activities and news content; and cooperation for the joint production of journalistic initiatives to promote cultural diversity within CPLP member States. The report covered activities conducted within the Community under the theme of the MDGs.

On 20 August, [A/63/344] Portugal submitted to the Assembly the final declaration of the seventh Conference of Heads of State and Government of CPLP (Lisbon, Portugal, 24–25 July).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/143** [draft: A/63/L.41 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 114 (f)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/10 of 26 October 1999, by which it granted observer status to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and considered it mutually advantageous to provide for cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, as well as its resolutions 59/21 of 8 November 2004 and 61/223 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular of Chapter VIII, that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and Security Council resolution 1809(2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa,

Considering that the activities of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries complement and support the work of the United Nations,

Welcoming the celebration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for the third consecutive year, of Portuguese Language Day, on 23 June 2008,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the outcome of the seventh Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, held in Lisbon on 24 and 25 July 2008, which recognizes the economic value of the Portuguese language and the political commit-

ment to promote it in the international and regional organizations and United Nations agencies and programmes;

2. *Expresses satisfaction* with the strengthening of cooperation between the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the specialized agencies and other bodies and programmes of the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

3. *Welcomes* the signature of a cooperation agreement between the Executive Secretariat of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the Portuguese Language Unit of the Radio and Television Service of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in New York on 25 April 2008, regarding the exchange of information and cooperation to organize initiatives to promote cultural diversity within the Portuguese-speaking countries;

4. *Also welcomes* the signature of a cooperation agreement between the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries on 8 November 2007, on combating rural poverty in Portuguese-speaking developing countries, as well as the work done by the Executive Secretariat of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, within the framework of the technical cooperation project signed in May 2008 with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which aims at the formulation of a South-South and North-South cooperation programme for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

5. *Further welcomes* the establishment of the partnership between the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries and the International Labour Organization Office in Lisbon, which aims at the creation of an interactive platform for the Governments of the Portuguese-speaking countries to exchange information and experiences within the scope of social protection, decent work, monitoring of labour standards and working conditions, and the fight against child labour;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the signature, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 5 November 2008, of a cooperation agreement between the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the secretariat of the Convention, with a view to developing joint actions in the fields of combating desertification, land degradation, drought mitigation, water scarcity and poverty;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries to initiate consultations with a view to considering the establishment of a formal cooperation agreement;

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

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries".

League of Arab States

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/14 [YUN 2006, p, 1599], the Secretary-General, in his consolidated report [A/63/228-S/2008/531 & Corr.1] issued in August, provided information on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 November [meeting 42], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/17** [draft: A/63/L.20 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 114 (n)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,

Recalling article 3 of the Pact of the League of Arab States, which entrusts the Council of the League with the function of determining the means whereby the League will collaborate with the international organizations which may be created in the future to guarantee peace and security and organize economic and social relations,

Noting the desire of both organizations to consolidate, develop and enhance further the ties existing between them in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, technical and administrative fields,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace", in particular section VII concerning cooperation with regional arrangements and organizations, and the "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace",

Convinced of the need for more efficient and coordinated utilization of available economic and financial resources in order to promote the common objectives of the two organizations,

Recognizing the need for the further strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations for the realization of the common goals and objectives of the two organizations,

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

2. *Commends* the continued efforts of the League of Arab States to promote multilateral cooperation among Arab States, and requests the United Nations system to continue to lend its support;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the follow-up action taken by him to implement the proposals adopted at the meetings between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, including the sectoral meeting in 2005 on the theme

"Achieving and financing the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development in the Arab region" and the general meeting on cooperation held in 2006;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, to intensify further their cooperation for the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, economic and social development, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests and objectives of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields;

6. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system:

(a) To continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and among themselves, as well as with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in the follow-up of multilateral proposals aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation in all fields between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

(b) To strengthen the capacity of the League of Arab States and of its institutions and specialized organizations to benefit from globalization and information technology and to meet the development challenges of the new millennium;

(c) To step up cooperation and coordination with the specialized organizations of the League of Arab States in the organization of seminars and training courses and in the preparation of studies;

(d) To maintain and increase contacts and improve the mechanism of consultation with the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies concerned regarding projects and programmes in order to facilitate their implementation;

(e) To participate whenever possible with organizations and institutions of the League of Arab States in the execution and implementation of development projects in the Arab region;

(f) To inform the Secretary-General of the progress made in their cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations and, in particular, of the follow-up action taken on the multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the previous meetings between the two organizations;

7. *Also calls upon* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to increase their cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in the priority sectors of energy, rural development, desertification and green belts, training and vocational education, technology, environment, information and documentation, trade and finance, water resources, development of the agricultural sector,

empowerment of women, transport, communications and information, promotion of the role of the private sector and capacity-building;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to encourage periodic consultation between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in order to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation of, and follow-up action on, the multilateral projects, proposals and recommendations adopted at the meetings between the two organizations;

9. *Recommends* that the United Nations and all organizations of the United Nations system make the greatest possible use of Arab institutions and technical expertise in projects undertaken in the Arab region;

10. *Reaffirms* that, in order to enhance cooperation and for the purpose of the review and appraisal of progress, a general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States should be held once every two years and that joint inter-agency sectoral meetings should also be convened on a biennial basis to address priority areas of major importance to the development of Arab States, on the basis of agreement between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

11. *Also reaffirms* the importance of holding the sectoral meeting between the United Nations and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations during 2009 and also of holding the general meeting on cooperation between representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations during 2010;

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

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States".

Organization of the Islamic Conference

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/49 [YUN 2006, p. 1600], the Secretary-General, in his August consolidated report [A/63/228-S/2008/531 & Corr.1], provided information on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (oic). The Secretaries-General of both Organizations met regularly, and consultations with the Special Adviser for the International Compact with Iraq and Other Political Issues, in March 2007, and the High-level Coordinator for missing Kuwaitis and third-country citizens and missing Kuwaiti property, in June 2008, further enhanced cooperation. Representatives of the UN system and oic met in Geneva from 8 to 10 July where they reviewed and appraised levels of cooperation in the fields of science and technology; trade and development; implementation of

the MDGs; protection of and assistance to refugees; human resource development; food security and agriculture; environment; health and population; arts and crafts; and the promotion of heritage. A workshop on human rights education in the primary and secondary school system—jointly organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), a specialized institution of the oic—was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in May.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/114** [draft: A/63/L.44 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 114 (r)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/4 of 22 October 1982, 38/4 of 28 October 1983, 39/7 of 8 November 1984, 40/4 of 25 October 1985, 41/3 of 16 October 1986, 42/4 of 15 October 1987, 43/2 of 17 October 1988, 44/8 of 18 October 1989, 45/9 of 25 October 1990, 46/13 of 28 October 1991, 47/18 of 23 November 1992, 48/24 of 24 November 1993, 49/15 of 15 November 1994, 50/17 of 20 November 1995, 51/18 of 14 November 1996, 52/4 of 22 October 1997, 53/16 of 29 October 1998, 54/7 of 25 October 1999, 55/9 of 30 October 2000, 56/47 of 7 December 2001, 57/42 of 21 November 2002, 59/8 of 22 October 2004 and 61/49 of 4 December 2006,

Recalling also its resolution 3369(XXX) of 10 October 1975, by which it decided to invite the Organization of the Islamic Conference to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and of its subsidiary organs in the capacity of observer,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in strengthening the role of the Organization in conflict prevention, confidence-building, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation in member States as well as in conflict situations involving Muslim communities,

Noting the adoption by the third extraordinary session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on 7 and 8 December 2005, of the Ten-year Programme of Action, and the adoption on 14 March 2008 by the eleventh session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar on 13 and 14 March 2008, of the amended Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,

Taking into account the desire of the two organizations to continue to cooperate closely in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and scientific fields and in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, the promotion of a culture of peace through dialogue and cooperation, decoloni-

zation, fundamental human rights and economic and social development,

Recalling the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling also the decision of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held in New York on 26 September 2008, to recognize the merit of celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in 2009 through national and international programmes on different aspects of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, highlighting its activities, evolution and reform through the four decades of its existence,

Noting that the report of the Secretary-General recognizes the strengthening of practical cooperation and the building of complementarity between the United Nations, its funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, its subsidiary organs and its specialized and affiliated institutions,

Noting also the encouraging progress made in the ten priority areas of cooperation between the two organizations and their respective agencies and institutions, as well as in the identification of other areas of cooperation between them,

Noting further that the Secretaries-General of the two organizations have met regularly, and consultations involving the Special Adviser for the International Compact with Iraq and Other Political Issues, in March 2007, and the High-level Coordinator for missing Kuwaitis and third-country citizens and missing Kuwaiti property, in June 2008, and the visit of the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to the headquarters of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in March 2008, have enhanced cooperation,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its organs and institutions contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Taking note of the results of the general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions, held in Geneva from 8 to 10 July 2008, to review and appraise the level of cooperation in the fields of science and technology, trade and development, implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, protection of and assistance to refugees, human rights, human resource development, food security and agriculture, environment, health and population, arts and crafts, and the promotion of heritage, and of the fact that these meetings are now being held every two years, with the next one scheduled for 2010,

Recalling that the Organization of the Islamic Conference remains an important partner of the United Nations in peace, security and the fostering of a culture of peace at the global level, and noting various decisions reached by the two sides, including the agreement to continue cooperation in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and the agreement to improve the follow-up mechanism,

Taking note of the contribution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations and other initiatives in this regard,

Welcoming the close and multifaceted cooperation between the specialized institutions of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference with a view to strengthening the capacities of the two organizations in addressing challenges to development and social progress, including ongoing discussions between the United Nations Children's Fund and the Organization of the Islamic Conference on formalizing their partnership through specific initiatives linked to the Millennium Development Goals, as part of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Ten-year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the Twenty-first Century,

Welcoming also the existing cooperation between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, including dialogue between the two entities on reaching out to non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian actors in member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference as well as participation in joint activities and events and information-sharing, with a view to furthering proactive engagement and implementing concrete programmes in capacity-building, emergency assistance and strategic partnerships,

Noting the request of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for greater interaction between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference Secretariat extending beyond the current biennial arrangement so as to include a periodic review of cooperation, in light of the expanding areas of cooperation between the two organizations,

Noting with appreciation the determination of the two organizations to strengthen further the existing cooperation by developing specific proposals in the designated priority areas of cooperation, as well as in the political field,

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

2. *Urges* the United Nations system to cooperate with the Organization of the Islamic Conference in areas of mutual interest, as appropriate;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the active participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Affirms* that the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference share a common goal of promoting and facilitating the Middle East peace process so that it can reach its objective of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

5. *Requests* the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue to cooperate in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, promotion of a culture of peace through dialogue and cooperation, decolonization, human rights and fundamental freedoms, terrorism, capacity-building, health-related issues such as combating

pandemic and endemic diseases, emergency relief and rehabilitation and technical cooperation;

6. *Requests* the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen cooperation in addressing the social and economic issues that affect the efforts of Member States to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations in areas of common concern and to review and explore innovative ways and means of enhancing the mechanisms of such cooperation;

8. *Also welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its specialized and affiliated institutions in promoting South-South cooperation in areas of common interest;

9. *Welcomes with appreciation* the continuing cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the fields of peacemaking, preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and notes the close cooperation between the two organizations in reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen information exchange, coordination and cooperation between them in areas of mutual interest in the political field and to develop practical modalities of such cooperation;

11. *Also welcomes* the periodic high-level meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as between senior secretariat officials of the two organizations, and encourages their participation in important meetings of the two organizations;

12. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with the subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, particularly in the domains of science and technology, higher education, health and environment, by negotiating cooperation agreements, and through necessary contacts and meetings of the respective focal points for cooperation in priority areas of interest to the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

13. *Urges* the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, especially the lead agencies, to provide increased technical and other forms of assistance to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions in order to enhance cooperation;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, cultural, humanitarian and scientific fields;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the state of

cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference".

International Organization of la Francophonie

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/7 [YUN 2006, p. 1602], the Secretary-General, in his August consolidated report [A/63/228-S/2008/531 & Corr.1], detailed cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF). Following a March meeting between the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OIF in New York, both Organizations held a series of working-level consultations in April in Paris. Participants reviewed progress achieved and explored ways to strengthen international partnerships in early warning and conflict prevention. United Nations–OIF cooperation had improved significantly in the area of peacekeeping, particularly in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1778 [YUN 2007, p. 153] on Chad. Cooperation between the organizations also contributed to the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between the Government of the Central African Republic and two of the country's major political-military groups in June, and the Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) engaged in consultations with OIF on the modalities of a possible collaboration related to the electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire. In September 2007, OIF and OHCHR signed a joint three-year programme of cooperation, focusing on the implementation of major international human rights instruments, conflict prevention and settlement, the fight against discrimination and the promotion of diversity. OHCHR also organized several workshops and activities with financial support and expertise from OIF. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and OIF continued to promote the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies among French-speaking developing countries.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/236** [draft: A/63/L.59 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 114 (*k*)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/18 of 10 November 1978, 50/3 of 16 October 1995, 52/2 of 17 October 1997, 54/25 of 15 November 1999, 56/45 of 7 December 2001, 57/43

of 21 November 2002, 59/22 of 8 November 2004 and 61/7 of 20 October 2006, as well as its decision 53/453 of 18 December 1998,

Recalling also its resolution 61/266 of 16 May 2007 on multilingualism,

Considering that the International Organization of la Francophonie brings together a considerable number of States Members of the United Nations, among which it promotes multilateral cooperation in areas of interest to the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations which encourage the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations through regional cooperation,

Bearing in mind also that, according to the Charter of la Francophonie adopted on 23 November 2005 at the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, held in Antananarivo, the objectives of the International Organization of la Francophonie are to assist in the establishment and development of democracy, the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts and support for the rule of law and for human rights, the intensification of dialogue between cultures and civilizations, the establishment of closer ties among peoples through mutual knowledge and strengthening of their solidarity through multilateral cooperation activities with a view to promoting the growth of their economies, and the promotion of education and training,

Welcoming the steps taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie to strengthen its ties with the organizations of the United Nations system and with international and regional organizations with a view to attaining its objectives,

Noting with satisfaction the commitment to multilateral cooperation for peace, good governance and the rule of law, economic governance and solidarity, the environment, sustainable development, and climate change, undertaken by Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language, at their twelfth summit, held in Quebec City, Canada, from 17 to 19 October 2008, and their determination to work together to bring about, through targeted action, added value in these areas,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 61/7,

Noting with satisfaction the substantial progress achieved in cooperation between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and programmes and the International Organization of la Francophonie,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie serves the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the desire of the two organizations to consolidate, develop and strengthen the ties that exist between them in the political, economic, social and cultural fields,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General, and welcomes the increasingly close and productive cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that the International Organization of la Francophonie participates actively in the work of the United Nations, to which it makes a valuable contribution;

3. *Notes with great satisfaction* the initiatives taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie in the areas of conflict prevention, the promotion of peace and support for democracy, the rule of law and human rights, in accordance with the commitments reaffirmed at the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie on Conflict Prevention and Human Security, held on 13 and 14 May 2006 in Saint Boniface, Canada, and commends it on the genuine contribution it makes, in cooperation with the United Nations, in Haiti, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic and Chad;

4. *Welcomes* the initiation of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, with the participation of other regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, in the fields of early warning and conflict prevention, and encourages the pursuit of this initiative with a view to formulating practical recommendations to facilitate the establishment of relevant operational mechanisms, where necessary;

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the International Organization of la Francophonie for the steps it has taken in recent years to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie for their sustained efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two organizations, thereby serving their mutual interests in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

7. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat with a view to increasing the number of French-speaking personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations;

8. *Also welcomes* the fact that the twelfth summit of la Francophonie led to concrete commitments to address the food and energy crisis, to strengthen the capacity of francophone States in the area of peacekeeping, to support efforts by international financial institutions to develop norms and codes that could be readily adopted by member States, and to mobilize all efforts and all the political will of member States to ratify the international instruments relating to the environment, and invites the United Nations to actively collaborate with the International Organization of la Francophonie and its members to meet these commitments;

9. *Further welcomes* the involvement of the countries that use French as a common language, particularly through the International Organization of la Francophonie, in the preparation for, conduct of and follow-up to international conferences organized under United Nations auspices;

10. *Welcomes* the high-level meetings held periodically between the United Nations Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Organization of la Francophonie, and advocates the participation of the secretariats in major meetings of the two organizations;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for including the International Organization of la Francophonie in the periodic meetings he holds with heads of regional organizations, and invites him to continue doing

so, taking into account the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in conflict prevention and support for democracy and the rule of law;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued collaboration between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the area of electoral monitoring and assistance, and advocates the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations in that area;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, to encourage the holding of periodic meetings between representatives of the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of the Secretariat of the International Organization of la Francophonie in order to promote the exchange of information, coordination of activities and identification of new areas of cooperation;

14. *Welcomes* the participation of the International Organization of la Francophonie in the Peacebuilding Commission's work on Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic, and strongly encourages the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to cooperate actively;

15. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the necessary steps, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, to continue to promote cooperation between the two organizations;

16. *Invites* the specialized agencies and the funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to collaborate to this end with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie by identifying new synergies in favour of development, in particular in the areas of poverty elimination, energy, sustainable development, education, training and the development of new information technologies;

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

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie".

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/6 [YUN 2006, p. 1604], the Secretary-General, in his August consolidated report [A/63/228-S/2008/531 & Corr.1], detailed the cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). During the IPU Statutory Assemblies in 2007 and 2008, member Parliaments adopted resolutions on global issues that were also high on the UN agenda, including climate change, poverty eradication, human trafficking and migration, employment, official development assistance, terrorism, and the peaceful coexistence of religions and cultures. IPU established a new plenary

Committee on UN Affairs, which met for the first time in October 2007, and would formulate and monitor proposals for developing the IPU–UN relationship and examine major UN issues, such as funding and accountability and reform efforts. IPU was also involved in shaping the agenda of the new Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and participated in the preparatory events for the Forum's 2008 meeting. In November 2007, IPU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a memorandum of understanding providing a framework for joint activities in areas such as democratic governance, poverty reduction, development cooperation and women's empowerment. IPU established an Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS to enlist the world's legislatures in the fight against the epidemic. In collaboration with UNAIDS and UNDP, it launched a reference handbook for parliamentarians entitled *Taking action against HIV*.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 November [meeting 53], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/24** [draft: A/63/L.26 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 114 (I)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 8 August 2008 which attests to the broad and substantive cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the many activities undertaken by the organization in support of the United Nations,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations as joint United Nations–Inter-Parliamentary Union events during the sessions of the General Assembly, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations in the context of major United Nations conferences and events,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996, which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations, including the effective implementation of United Nations reform,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity

of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004 and 61/6 of 20 October 2006,

Welcoming the close cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Peacebuilding Commission in fostering political dialogue and building national capacities for good governance,

Welcoming also the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in shaping the agenda and work of the new Development Cooperation Forum held by the Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the importance of the provision of continued parliamentary support to the work of the Human Rights Council,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide for a greater parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the United Nations;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to cooperate closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, international law, human rights, and democracy and gender issues, bearing in mind the significant benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;

3. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen further its contribution to the work of the General Assembly, including its revitalization, and in relation to the process of United Nations reform and system-wide coherence;

4. *Invites* the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in engaging national parliaments in the countries under consideration by the Commission in efforts to promote democratic governance, national dialogue and reconciliation;

5. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely with the Development Cooperation Forum and bring a robust parliamentary contribution to the Forum process and the broader development cooperation agenda;

6. *Also encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen its contribution to the Human Rights Council, particularly as it relates to the universal periodic review of the fulfilment of human rights obligations and commitments by Member States;

7. *Welcomes* the growing practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

8. *Calls for* the further development of the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations as a joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union event and for the circulation of the hearings summary report as a document of the General Assembly;

9. *Welcomes* the proposal for a regular annual exchange between the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the senior leadership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations and maximizing parliamentary support for the United Nations;

10. *Decides*, in recognition of the unique role of national parliaments in support of the work of the United Na-

tions, to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session an item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union”.

Participation in UN work

Observer status

Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation

On 17 July [A/63/143], Paraguay requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly’s sixty-third session of an item on observer status for the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC) in the Assembly. An explanatory memorandum stated that the Agency was established in 2004 to facilitate the participation of resource-constrained countries in international trade. AITIC provided its members trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as free, personalized assistance, tailored to the particular needs for information and analysis concerning trade and development issues. Observer status would boost the Agency’s capacity to cooperate with UN agencies involved in poverty reduction.

On 24 December, by **decision 63/552**, the Assembly decided that the item on “Observer status for AITIC in the General Assembly” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

On 15 August [A/63/196], France, on behalf of the European Union, requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly’s sixty-third session of an item on observer status in the Assembly for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria [YUN 2002, p. 1217]. An explanatory memorandum stated that the Fund was established in 2002 to provide financial support to the global fight against the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in low- and middle-income countries highly affected by the diseases. Observer status would boost the Fund’s capacity to collaborate with other UN agencies involved with global health and development and would allow the Fund to bring to the Assembly’s attention the progress recorded by the Fund in contributing to the MDGs.

On 19 September [A/63/PV.2], pursuant to the first report of the General Committee [A/63/250], the Assembly deferred consideration of the question of the inclusion in the agenda of an item on observer status for the Fund.

International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

In a 6 October letter to the Secretary-General [A/63/234], Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-third session of an item on observer status for the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) in the Assembly. An explanatory memorandum contained details on the founding of IFAS in 1999, the background on the environmental crisis that had led to the shrinking of the Aral Sea, and the continuing deterioration of the environmental situation, which was affecting the living conditions and health of over 35 million Aral Sea Basin inhabitants, preventing normal economic activities and causing an increase in migratory movements in the region. There was a need for more effective and targeted measures and more specific and direct cooperation between the States of the region and the United Nations and other international organizations and donors through IFAS. Observer status would allow IFAS to initiate various measures designed to improve the environmental, social and economic situation in the Aral Sea Basin.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/133** [A/63/454] without vote [agenda item 156].

Observer status for the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

South Centre

In a 19 June letter to the Secretary-General [A/63/141], Tanzania requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-third session of an item on observer status for the South Centre. An explanatory memorandum stated that the Centre, an intergovernmental organization of developing countries established in 1994, assisted in developing the points of view of the South on major policy issues relating to trade, innovation and access to knowledge, global governance, financing for development, labour and employment, and environment. It also sought to foster improved North-South dialogue and interaction on an equitable basis on key global issues, and responded to requests for policy advice and technical

support from developing countries in the context of international negotiations and discussions in various international forums. The Centre considered the United Nations to be one of its major partners and that the work and agenda of the Assembly were of great relevance to the South, and consequently, of prime importance to the Centre.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/131** [A/63/453] without vote [agenda item 151].

Observer status for the South Centre in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the South Centre,

1. *Decides* to invite the South Centre to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

University for Peace

On 11 September [A/63/231], Costa Rica requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-third session of an item on observer status for the University for Peace. An explanatory memorandum stated that the University, established in 1980 [YUN 1980, p. 1004], was a specialized international institution for post-graduate studies, research, and dissemination of knowledge, aimed at training for peace within the United Nations University (UNU) system. The Charter of the University envisaged the creation of close links between UNU and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in view of its responsibilities in the field of education. Observer status would enable the University to participate in discussions on peacebuilding and peacekeeping issues, which, in turn, would allow it to strengthen the content of its academic and training programmes.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/132** [A/63/455] without vote [agenda item 153].

Observer status for the University for Peace in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the University for Peace,

1. *Decides* to invite the University for Peace to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

Non-governmental organizations

Committee on NGOs

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) held its regular 2008 session (21–30 January) [E/2008/32 (Part I)] and its resumed session (29 May–6 June & 25 June) [E/2008/32 (Part II) & Corr.1], both in New York. In January, the Committee considered 145 applications for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, including applications deferred from its 1999–2007 sessions and five requests for reclassification, of which it recommended two. It recommended 70 applications for consultative status, deferred consideration of 68, took note that three NGOs had withdrawn their applications and closed consideration of two applications. It did not recommend 30 requests deferred from previous sessions. The Committee reviewed 59 quadrennial reports and heard 15 NGO representatives.

The Committee recommended one draft resolution on measures to improve quadrennial reporting procedures and four draft decisions for action by the Council. It reviewed its working methods relating to the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 [YUN 1996, p. 1360], including the process of accreditation of representatives of NGOs, and Council decision 1995/304 [YUN 1995, p. 1445]. The Committee considered the general voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE). During the session, no requests for consultative status were received from NGOs pursuant to Council resolution 2006/46 [YUN 2006, p. 1001], and there were no special reports or complaints by Member States before the Committee.

On 25 and 30 January, the Committee considered the application of the American Sports Committee, an application deferred from previous sessions. On 30 January, the Committee recommended that consultative status not be granted to that organization. On 21 July, the Council decided not to grant consultative status to the NGO American Sports Committee (**decision 2008/223**).

Regarding the application of the Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales, an application deferred from a previous session, a motion to adjourn the debate until the 2008 resumed session was rejected by a roll-call vote of 8 to 8, with 2 abstentions. Subsequently, the Committee decided

by a roll-call vote of 7 to 7, with 4 abstentions, that consultative status not be granted to the organization. Nonetheless, on 22 July the Council rejected the draft decision and granted special consultative status to the NGO Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales (**decision 2008/230**).

On 21 July, the Economic and Social Council granted special consultative status to 70 organizations and placed eight others on its roster; reclassified two organizations from the roster to special consultative status; and noted that the Committee had taken note of 53 quadrennial reports, closed consideration of the request for consultative status made by two NGOs, and taken note of the withdrawal by three NGOs of their applications for consultative status (**decision 2008/222**). Also on the same date, the Council took note of the Committee's report on its 2008 regular session (**decision 2008/224**).

At its resumed session, in May, the Committee considered 126 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from its 1999–2008 sessions; recommended 64 applications for consultative status; deferred consideration of 55 applications and closed consideration of two applications. It did not recommend consultative status for one organization, whose application was deferred from previous sessions. It recommended one of three requests for reclassification of consultative status, reviewed 139 quadrennial reports, 13 of which had been deferred from previous sessions, and heard six NGO representatives.

The Committee recommended one draft resolution on strengthening the NGO Section of DESA and five draft decisions for action by the Council. It reviewed its working methods relating to the implementation of Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of NGOs, and Council decision 1995/304. During the session, no requests for consultative status were received from NGOs pursuant to Council resolution 2006/46. With regard to Liberal International, an NGO based in the United Kingdom, which had its consultative status suspended for one year [YUN 2007, p. 1433], the Committee took note and acknowledged that the organization's one year suspension would end on 20 July. It also considered the general voluntary trust fund in support of UN-NGO-IRENE.

On 6 June, the Committee considered the application of the Human Rights Foundation, a United States-based organization. A motion to adjourn debate on the application was rejected by a roll-call vote of 12 to 6, with 1 abstention. Subsequently, by a roll-call vote of 13 to 3, with 2 abstentions, the Committee decided to not grant consultative status to the organization. On 21 July, the Council adopted the draft decision of the Committee and decided not to grant

consultative status to the Human Rights Foundation (**decision 2008/226**).

On 21 July, the Council granted consultative status to 64 organizations and placed 11 others on the roster; reclassified one from the roster to special consultative status; and noted that the Committee had taken note of 126 quadrennial reports, closed consideration of two applications, and taken note of the withdrawal of applications by two organizations (**decision 2008/225**). On the same date, the Council decided to dispose of the complaint against the NGO World Union for Progressive Judaism (**decision 2008/227**); decided that the 2009 regular session of the Committee would be held from 19 to 28 January 2009 and the resumed session from 18 to 27 May 2009, and approved the provisional agenda for that session (**decision 2008/228**). It also deferred until its resumed substantive session consideration of the report of the Committee on its resumed 2008 session (**decision 2008/229**).

On 19 December, the Council took note of the Committee's report on its resumed 2008 session (**decision 2008/261**).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 37], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2008/4** [E/2008/32 (Part I) & E/2008/99/Corr.1] without vote [agenda item 12].

Measures to improve the quadrennial reporting procedures

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming its resolution 1996/31, in which it established that one of the primary purposes of the consultative arrangement is to secure expert information or advice from organizations whose special competence and/or activities in areas of direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations qualified them to make a significant contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the importance of an efficient and effective quadrennial reporting and review system to ensure the smooth functioning of a dynamic and productive consultative arrangement as set out in its resolution 1996/31,

Emphasizing that the quadrennial reporting exercise mandated under resolution 1996/31 constitutes the only formal monitoring mechanism established to enable the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to confirm the continued existence and activity of a non-governmental organization and to determine that the organization conforms at all times to the principles governing the establishment and nature of its consultative relationship,

Recalling, in particular, paragraphs 55, 57 (c) and 61 (c) of its resolution 1996/31, which set out the responsibility of non-governmental organizations in general or special con-

sultative status to submit quadrennial reports and the basis for the suspension or withdrawal of such consultative status for those organizations that fail to make any positive or effective contribution to the work of the United Nations,

Expressing serious concern at the unsatisfactory submission of quadrennial reports,

1. *Decides* that the procedure for the submission of quadrennial reports for a non-governmental organization in general or special consultative status shall be as follows:

(a) Six months prior to the due date for the report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat shall write to the non-governmental organization concerned to remind it of the reporting requirement, the expected date of the submission of the report and the penalties for non-reporting, as stipulated in the present resolution in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31;

(b) One month after the due date for the report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall send a notice to the non-governmental organization concerned reminding it of the reporting requirement and of the penalties for non-reporting, and requesting that the report be submitted by the first day of the following January;

(c) If the outstanding report is not received by the first day of the following January, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall send a final letter to the non-governmental organization concerned, requesting that the report be submitted by the first day of the following May and warning that non-receipt of the report by that date shall result in the suspension of consultative status, and shall copy the letter to the permanent mission to the United Nations of the country where the non-governmental organization has its headquarters;

(d) If no report is received by the first day of the following May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall, at its resumed session, compile a list of all non-governmental organizations with outstanding reports and recommend to the Economic and Social Council the immediate suspension of their consultative status for a period of one year;

(e) Following a decision by the Economic and Social Council to suspend the consultative status of any non-governmental organization with an outstanding report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall write to the non-governmental organization concerned advising it of the suspension, requesting the submission of the outstanding report by the first day of May of the following year and warning that failure to submit the report by such time shall result in the withdrawal of consultative status, and shall copy the letter to the permanent mission to the United Nations of the country where the non-governmental organization has its headquarters;

(f) At its resumed session to be held the following May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall review the status of reporting of the non-governmental organizations whose consultative status has been suspended and shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council either the reinstatement of consultative status for any non-governmental organization that has hitherto submitted its report or the withdrawal of consultative status for any non-governmental organization with a report still outstanding;

2. *Reiterates* that, in accordance with paragraph 56 of its resolution 1996/31, in cases where the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations has decided to recommend that the general or special consultative status of a non-governmental organization or its listing on the Roster be suspended or withdrawn, the non-governmental organization concerned shall have an opportunity to present its response for appropriate consideration by the Committee as expeditiously as possible;

3. *Also reiterates* that, in accordance with paragraph 59 of its resolution 1996/31, a non-governmental organization whose consultative status or whose listing on the Roster is withdrawn may be entitled to reapply for consultative status or for inclusion on the Roster no sooner than three years after the effective date of such withdrawal;

4. *Requests* the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to ensure that the revised guidelines are clearly posted on the Section's website and included in the initial letter sent to each non-governmental organization that has been granted general or special consultative status.

Strengthening of NGO Section of DESA

On 5 June [E/2008/32 (Part II) & Corr.1], the Committee on NGOs was briefed by the Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on the activities and staffing of the Section. She invited the Committee to consider the Section's staffing problems and growing workload as an opportunity to review, overhaul and modernize the system and the methods used in processing applications and in the quadrennial reports review, and to consider a greater use of new information technology.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 37], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2008/5** [draft: E/2008/L.9], without vote [agenda item 12].

Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental organizations,

Aware of the evolving relationship between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations community, reflecting the broader and more substantive in-

volvement of non-governmental organizations with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations at large,

Mindful of the significantly large increase in the number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that has occurred in recent years, and conscious that the number will continue to increase in the foreseeable future,

Mindful also of the demands that the participation of the expansion of non-governmental organizations places on the workload and resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat,

Recalling paragraph 68 of its resolution 1996/31 regarding the requirement for adequate Secretariat support to fulfil the mandate defined for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations with respect to carrying out the wider range of activities in which the enhanced involvement of non-governmental organizations was envisaged,

Recalling also the regular programme of technical cooperation under section 22 of the programme budget of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the need to ensure that the Non-Governmental Organizations Section is able to operate efficiently in carrying out its mandate at the optimum level of performance,

Emphasizing also the need to strengthen partnership with civil society as emphasized by the Secretary-General within the context of the reform of the United Nations by integrating analytical capacity with technical cooperation activities for greater effectiveness and efficiency,

1. *Regrets* the weak capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full utilization of the resources allocated to it as well as the filling of all vacant posts and to report on proposals to further strengthen the capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011 and the maintenance of the institutional memory of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, thereby making full use of lessons learned and best practices within the Section so as to enable it to carry out its responsibilities efficiently and effectively;

2. *Recommends* that a technical cooperation programme be established for the Non-Governmental Organizations Section aimed at providing advisory services, the conduct of capacity-building workshops designed to launch the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE), at the regional, subregional and national levels, and the development of training materials and the promotion of pilot joint partnership initiatives, projects and programmes involving the United Nations, civil society and Governments worldwide, especially for the countries most in need.