

## United Nations restructuring and institutional matters

In 2009, the General Assembly continued consideration of efforts to further enhance system-wide coherence and support progress toward reaching internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), focusing on the priority areas of: the United Nations “Delivering as one” at the country level; governance and funding of UN operational activities for development; and reform of the gender architecture within the Organization. In September, the Assembly adopted a resolution on system-wide coherence, expressing strong support for consolidating the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women into a composite entity led by an Under-Secretary-General. The Assembly also asked the Secretary-General to make proposals for the further improvement of the governance of operational activities for development, and to arrange for an independent evaluation of the “Delivering as one” programme. In October, an intergovernmental meeting of the eight “Delivering as one” pilot countries reviewed progress and lessons learned and made proposals for moving forward. The Assembly also agreed to convene in 2010 a high-level meeting on accelerating progress towards achieving the MDGs.

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 Assembly continued to focus on administrative and institutional matters. It resumed its sixty-third session, and opened its sixty-fourth session on 15 September. The Assembly resumed the tenth emergency special session on illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory; held a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development; and held a commemorative meeting to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Security Council held 194 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 Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

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### Restructuring issues

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#### Programme of reform

##### UN system-wide coherence

In 2009, the General Assembly continued consultations on system-wide coherence through 13 informal consultations and interactive meetings, led by the Co-Chairs of the System-wide Coherence process (Namibia and Spain), including a plenary of informal consultation held on 22 June and meetings with regional groupings and individuals. Those consultations addressed the strengthening of institutional arrangements for gender equality and the empowerment of women; strengthening governance of operational activities for development of the UN system for enhanced system-wide coherence, including the “Delivering as one” programme; and improving the funding system of UN operational activities for development. The consultations were supported by discussion documents prepared by the Secretary-General. The Co-Chairs reported periodically on the results of those consultations for the Assembly’s consideration.

**Delivering as one.** On 8 June, the Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), Helen Clark, briefed the General Assembly on UN development system efforts to increase coherence, effectiveness and efficiency, particularly through the “Delivering as one” pilots (Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam). She stated that the important results reported by pilot countries included increased guidance by the Governments of those countries to the UN development system; greater alignment of the work of the UN country teams in those countries with national priorities and development strategies; and greater emphasis on strengthening national capacity. Common budgetary frameworks and country funds had significantly improved the transparency of the United Nations, enhancing inter-agency collaboration and facilitating greater coherence in

monitoring and financial reporting obligations. The pooled “One Fund” mechanism had helped to harmonize resource mobilization and reporting and reduce transaction costs; and many pilot countries had embarked on and made progress in harmonizing and simplifying business practices in procurement, information and communication technologies and human resources, which should enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of UN country teams’ operations. However, many challenges remained, such as accelerating the harmonization of business practices, identifying and measuring transaction costs and efficiencies, ensuring funding predictability, and addressing the call by pilot countries for the development of a single results report. UNDG would support countries wishing to conduct country-level evaluations in advance of the independent evaluation to take place.

**Institutional arrangements for gender issues.** In response to General Assembly resolution 62/277 [YUN 2008, p. 1516], the Deputy Secretary-General, on behalf of the Secretary-General, submitted on 5 March a discussion note on “Further details on institutional options for strengthening the institutional arrangements for support to gender equality and the empowerment of women”. The note provided detailed modalities on the options set out in a 2008 paper on the subject [ibid., p. 1271], focusing in particular on the composite entity option for strengthening the institutional arrangements through consolidation of the four gender-specific entities, namely, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. The paper concluded that the composite entity had the greatest potential to address the identified gaps and challenges.

On 3 June, additional information was provided on the proposed new entity, including its organizational structure, governance, staffing, funding and the relationships between the entity and intergovernmental bodies.

In their 7 August summary of consultations on UN system-wide coherence, the Co-Chairs of the System-wide Coherence process said that the new entity would, in particular, provide support to UN intergovernmental bodies, advance gender mainstreaming throughout the UN system, provide a link between the normative functions and operational activities, and carry out operational activities more effectively and on a larger scale, with a view to strengthening the impact of its support to Member States. It would be led by an Under-Secretary-General, and supported by funding from the UN regular budget for core functions and voluntary contributions for operational activities.

(For more details, see PART THREE, Chapter II and Chapter X.)

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 September [meeting 105], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/311** [draft: A/63/L.103] without vote [agenda item 107].

#### System-wide coherence

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

*Recalling also* its resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

*Recalling further* its resolution 62/277 of 15 September 2008 on system-wide coherence,

*Recalling* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

*Recalling* the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that those policy orientations are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with resolution 62/208 and other relevant resolutions,

*Having considered* the discussion notes on “Further details on institutional options for strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women” of 5 March 2009, on “Strengthening governance of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence” of 15 April 2009 and on “Strengthening the system-wide funding architecture of operational activities of the United Nations for development” of 3 May 2009, which the Deputy Secretary-General, on behalf of the Secretary-General, provided to the President of the General Assembly in response to a request from Member States,

#### Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women

1. *Strongly supports* the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates;

2. *Supports* that the composite entity shall be led by an Under-Secretary-General, who will report directly to the Secretary-General, to be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, on the basis of equitable geographical representation and gender balance;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to produce, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, a comprehensive proposal specifying, inter alia, the mission statement of the composite entity, the organizational arrangements, including an organizational chart, funding and

the executive board to oversee its operational activities in order to commence intergovernmental negotiations;

**Strengthening governance of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence**

4. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of the governance of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should focus on enhancing existing intergovernmental bodies with the purpose of making the United Nations development system more efficient and effective in its support to developing countries for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals;

5. *Underscores* that the governance of operational activities for development should be transparent and inclusive and should support national ownership and national development strategies;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to propose to the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, actionable proposals for the further improvement of the governance of the operational activities for development;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group, to propose to the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, modalities for the submission and approval of common country programmes on a voluntary basis, bearing in mind the importance of national ownership and effective intergovernmental oversight of the development process;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening evaluation as a United Nations system function and the guidance contained to this effect in its resolution 62/208, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to propose to the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, modalities for the establishment of an independent system-wide evaluation mechanism to assess system-wide efficiency, effectiveness and performance, bearing in mind the evaluation functions carried out by respective United Nations organizations, the Joint Inspection Unit and the United Nations Evaluation Group;

9. *Urges* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group to enhance the transparency of their activities through regular briefings to the General Assembly and through regular reports and effective interaction with the Economic and Social Council and relevant intergovernmental bodies;

10. *Encourages* continued and increased cooperation, coordination and coherence and exchanges between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to regularly apprise the General Assembly of progress made in this regard as part of the triennial and quadrennial comprehensive policy review reporting process;

**Improving the funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence**

11. *Emphasizes* that increasing financial contributions to the United Nations development system is key to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard recognizes the mutually reinforcing links between the increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries in eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development through operational activities for development and the overall resourcing of the United Nations development system;

12. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

13. *Notes with concern* the continuing imbalance between core and non-core resources received by the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the potential negative impact of non-core funding on the coordination and effectiveness of operational activities for development at the country level, while recognizing that thematic trust funds, multi-donor trust funds and other voluntary non-earmarked funding mechanisms linked to organization-specific funding frameworks and strategies, as established by the respective governing bodies, constitute some of the funding modalities that are complementary to regular budgets;

14. *Urges* donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United Nations development system, in particular its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to contribute on a multi-year basis, in a sustained and predictable manner, and to undertake voluntary commitments to provide a greater share of system-wide contributions to operational activities for development as core/regular resources;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development further analysis and actionable proposals on the current situation and perspectives in respect of core and non-core funding for the United Nations development system, notably the implications of various forms of non-core funding, in terms of predictability, country ownership and the implementation of intergovernmental mandates;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to create a central repository of information on operational activities for development, including disaggregated statistics on all funding sources and expenditures, building on his comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development, and to ensure appropriate and user-friendly online access and regular updating of the information contained therein;

**“Delivering as one”**

17. *Acknowledges* the interim assessments of the progress made and the challenges remaining in efforts to increase coherence in country-level programming, including in the “programme country pilots”;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to support “programme country pilot” countries to undertake expeditiously their own country-led evaluations with the participation of relevant stakeholders and with the technical support of the United Nations Evaluation Group;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to urgently undertake arrangements for an independent evaluation of lessons learned from the above efforts, as requested in resolution 62/208, and to inform the General Assembly of the modalities and terms of reference of this independent evaluation at its sixty-fourth session;

20. *Underscores* that the independent evaluation should be guided by the principles contained in resolution 62/208 with regard to national ownership and leadership and be conducted in the context of system-wide norms and standards, that it should be based on an inclusive, transparent, objective and independent approach, and that its outcome should be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

#### **Harmonization of business practices**

21. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to continue progress in the simplification and harmonization of business practices within the United Nations development system, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the System Chief Executives Board, to regularly inform the Economic and Social Council about progress being made and challenges encountered in this regard and to refer any matter requiring an intergovernmental decision to the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

#### **The way forward**

22. *Decides* to continue the intergovernmental work of the General Assembly on system-wide coherence on the issues addressed in the present resolution during the sixty-fourth session, with a view to achieving further substantive action in all areas, and resolves, at the conclusion of its entire process on system-wide coherence, to review and take stock of all its prior actions and deliberations in a single resolution or decision.

**Intergovernmental meeting.** On 3 December, Rwanda transmitted to the Secretary-General the Statement of Outcome and Way Forward adopted at the Intergovernmental Meeting of the programme country pilots on “Delivering as one” (Kigali, Rwanda, 19–21 October) [A/64/578-E/2010/3]. Representatives of the eight “Delivering as one” pilot countries, as well as of those countries that had voluntarily adopted the “Delivering as one” approach (Benin, Bhutan, Comoros, Kiribati, Malawi, Papua New Guinea), exchanged views on their experiences and lessons learned since the 2008 seminar in Maputo, Mozambique [YUN 2008, p. 1515], and on how to move the process forward while implementing the recommendations contained in Assembly resolution 62/208 [YUN 2007, p. 877]. Participants found that the “Delivering as one” approach had provided benefits for achieving better development results through increased national leadership and ownership. Pro-

gramme pilot countries and countries voluntarily adopting the approach had increased access to UN system mandates and resources, and their Governments were able to determine which of those best responded to national needs and priorities. Institutional frameworks for steering the process and the coordinating role of the Governments had been strengthened, bringing greater coherence in UN support for addressing national priorities and thus allowing the United Nations to become a more effective partner.

Major constraints to full implementation of the initiative included the lack of predictability and timeliness of funding, the lack of harmonization and simplification of business practices, high transaction costs, the low level of use of national operational capacities and the slow progress of the co-location of UN organizations. Participants welcomed the initiative to conduct country-led evaluations of their “Delivering as one” approach in seven of the eight programme countries. They agreed on a set of common parameters and institutional arrangements to ensure the independence, quality and credibility of the evaluations. They also requested the Assembly to organize the independent evaluations of lessons learned from the “Delivering as one” programme in accordance with resolution 63/311 (see p. 1368). Addressing the way forward, participants reaffirmed that there was no going back to the way of doing business prior to the “Delivering as one” initiative; underscored that the approach should continue to be guided by the principle of national ownership and leadership; and called upon agency headquarters, governing bodies, the Assembly and Member States to continue to support the reform process. They also called upon donors to support Governments of pilot countries and countries voluntarily adopting the approach in sustaining efforts to mobilize timely, predictable, unearmarked and multi-year financial support for the initiative through the country funds. They further agreed that all country-led evaluations should be completed by 1 July 2010, as an input to the following meeting to be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In a December report [A/64/589] on follow-up to General Assembly resolution 63/311, the Secretary-General made proposals for improving the functioning of the governing bodies to ensure that the tiers of governance engaged in operational activities for development functioned as an integrated system, with clear roles and well-defined lines of responsibilities and accountability. The proposals provided the basis for further consultations among Member States and governing bodies on the challenges and opportunities that would be created by strengthening the governance of UN operational activities for development (see p. 853).

The Secretary-General also addressed the purpose, timing and scope of the independent evaluation of les-

sons learned from the “Delivering as one” programme country pilots. He stated that the purpose of the evaluation was to feed into the Assembly’s quadrennial comprehensive policy review and contribute to consultations on system-wide coherence. The evaluation should be completed by the end of 2011. The Secretary-General proposed two options for conducting the evaluation: identifying an existing evaluation function that had the mandate to deliver an exercise of that nature; or setting up an ad hoc arrangement through the establishment of an evaluation management group.

### Comprehensive accountability architecture

At its resumed sixty-third session, the General Assembly had before it the Secretary-General’s report on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework [YUN 2008, p. 1519]; the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [ibid., p. 1520]; the related section of the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2008 [ibid., p. 1562]; the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of results-based management in the United Nations [ibid., p. 1520]; the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process [YUN 2006, p. 1652]; and the Secretary-General’s comments thereon [YUN 2008, p. 1520].

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 April [meeting 79], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/63/649/Add.1], adopted **resolution 63/276** without vote [agenda item 117].

#### Accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 59/272 of 23 December 2004 and 60/254 of 8 May 2006, section I of its resolution 60/260 of 8 May 2006, its resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006, paragraph 4 of its resolution 61/245 of 22 December 2006, paragraph 22 of its resolution 62/236 of 22 December 2007 and paragraphs 15 and 16 of its resolution 62/250 of 20 June 2008,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 55/231 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/290 B of 18 June 2003 and 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and paragraph 2 of its resolution 60/257 of 8 May 2006,

*Aware* of the significant flaws in terms of internal monitoring, inspection and accountability regarding, for example, the management of the United Nations oil-for-food programme,

*Noting* that since its sixtieth session, the General Assembly has included in its agenda the item entitled “Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme”,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as well as the related section of the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2008,

*Having also considered* the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of results-based management in the United Nations, and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework, and the related section of the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2008;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of results-based management in the United Nations, and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Reaffirms its commitment* to strengthening accountability in the Secretariat and the accountability of the Secretary-General to Member States and the achievement of results, and emphasizes the importance of establishing real, effective and efficient mechanisms that foster institutional and personal accountability;

5. *Stresses* that accountability is a central pillar of effective and efficient management that requires attention at the highest level;

6. *Reaffirms* paragraph 2 of its resolution 60/257, in which it endorsed the benchmarking framework for the implementation of results-based management in the United Nations, and that the implementation of any proposal on the accountability of the Secretariat to Member States shall in no way call into question the sole prerogative of Member States in respect of defining the roles and responsibilities of the intergovernmental bodies and oversight bodies for results-based management, including all aspects of programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation;

7. *Strongly urges* the Secretary-General to respect the sole prerogative of Member States regarding the application of the proposed actions included in paragraph 86 of his report, in particular principle 4, and requests him to refrain from redefining the roles and responsibilities of the intergovernmental bodies and oversight bodies for results-based management, including all aspects of programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation;

8. *Decides* not to endorse the proposed accountability framework;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, for consideration at the first part of its resumed sixty-fourth session, in consultation with the respective oversight bodies, drawing on the expertise of relevant United Nations entities and taking fully into account all relevant resolutions on accountability, a comprehensive report including, inter alia:

(a) A clear definition of accountability and proposals on accountability mechanisms, including clear parameters for their application and the instruments for their rigorous enforcement, without exceptions at any level, and a clear definition of roles and responsibilities;

(b) Clear and specific measures to ensure the access of Member States to timely and reliable information on results achieved and resources used by the United Nations Secretariat, as well as its performance including on measures to improve performance reporting;

(c) Concrete measures to ensure the timely implementation of the recommendations of the oversight bodies;

(d) Measures to strengthen personal accountability within the Secretariat and institutional accountability towards Member States on the results achieved and resources used;

(e) Measures to ensure transparency in the selection and appointment process of senior managers, including at the Assistant Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General levels;

(f) Concrete proposals on the reform of the performance appraisal system, taking fully into account the views of staff, as well as on sanctions for under-performance and rewards for outstanding performance to be applied for staff and senior management, including at the Assistant Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General levels;

(g) A clear definition of responsibilities resulting from the delegation of authority, and clear guidelines for programme managers for exercising that authority and actions to improve the system of the delegation of authority, including, inter alia, through systematic reporting mechanisms on how the delegated authority is exercised;

(h) Measures taken to implement the results-based management framework, including measures taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the senior management's leadership and commitment to promoting and supporting a culture of results in the United Nations, as well as a common understanding of results-based management and its implications;

(i) Scope, parameters and time frame for the application of a reliable results-based management information system, including detailed information on its compatibility with existing and projected information management systems;

(j) A proposed detailed plan and road map for the implementation of the enterprise risk management and internal control framework;

(k) An explanation of how the measures to strengthen the Secretariat's accountability mechanisms would address the significant flaws in terms of internal monitoring, inspection and accountability regarding the management of the United Nations oil-for-food programme;

10. *Approves*, under the programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009, the creation of one position at

the P-4 level under section 28A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, to be financed under general temporary assistance for nine months, the primary objective being the preparation of the report referred to in paragraph 9 above, and to be reported in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget;

11. *Also approves*, under the programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009, the redeployment of two posts (one P-4 and one General Service (Principal-level)) from section 29, Internal oversight, to section 28A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, as well as the amount of 24,000 United States dollars in non-post resources;

12. *Takes note* of paragraph 38 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with regard to the pilot project referred to in paragraph 104 (b) of the report of the Secretary-General;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report, to be considered by the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, on the modalities to be applied regarding the sharing of information contained in consultants' reports on management-related issues;

14. *Decides* that the consultants' reports referred to in paragraph 13 above are to be made available by the Secretary-General, upon the request of Member States, subject to approval by the General Assembly of the modalities to be applied;

15. *Notes* the existing practice of informal sharing of consultants' reports, and decides that the Secretary-General is to continue this practice, pending a decision on the report mentioned in paragraph 13 above;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with carrying out a review of the practices of the Secretariat in this regard;

17. *Invites* the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Information-sharing practices between the United Nations and national law enforcement authorities, as well as referrals of possible criminal cases related to United Nations staff, United Nations officials and experts on mission", without prejudice to the role of the Fifth Committee as the Main Committee of the General Assembly responsible for administrative and budgetary matters.

## Strengthening of UN system

In 2009, the General Assembly continued its consideration of the agenda item on strengthening the United Nations system. It had before it reports of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict [A/63/881] (see p. 43), and on implementation of Assembly resolution 61/257 on strengthening the capacity of the Organization to advance the disarmament agenda [YUN 2008, p. 559].

By **decision 64/549** of 24 December, the Assembly decided that the items on strengthening the United Nations system and on United Nations reform: measures and proposals would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session.

## Institutional matters

### Intergovernmental machinery

#### Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/316 [YUN 2004, p. 1374], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/63/915] on the revitalization of the work of the Assembly, which outlined the draft programme of work of the plenary and five of the six Assembly's Main Committees for its sixty-fourth (2009) session. An addendum [A/63/915/Add.1] contained the status of documentation for that session, as at 3 August 2009.

**Ad Hoc Working Group report.** Pursuant to Assembly resolution 62/276 [YUN 2008, p. 1522], the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Assembly in September submitted a report [A/63/959] summarizing its activities and presenting recommendations for further progress. The Working Group held eight meetings and conducted its work programme through a general discussion and exchange of views on all issues related to revitalization, thematic meetings and briefings. The three thematic meetings focused on: the implementation of Assembly resolutions and its agenda; operational and technical issues, including information on the Assembly's voting system in the framework of the capital master plan; its role and relationship to the other principal organs of the Organization and its visibility and public outreach capacity; its role and responsibility in appointing UN Secretaries-General; and strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and enhancing its functions and relationship with the Secretariat. Member States also heard briefings on voting/balloting and documentation, as well as the views of the United Nations Correspondents Association on ways in which coverage of the Assembly and its work could be facilitated.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 September [meeting 105], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/309** [A/63/959] without vote [agenda item 110].

#### 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, 61/292 of 2 August 2007 and 62/276 of 15 September 2008,

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

*Recalling* the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

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

*Recalling* paragraph 18 of the annex to its resolution 60/286 on the selection of the Secretary-General,

*Noting* the role of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the importance of providing adequate resources for its substantive work,

*Noting also* the current practice of balloting observed by the General Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly;

2. *Decides* to establish, at its sixty-fourth 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-fourth session;

#### Selection of the Secretary-General

3. *Affirms its commitment* to continuing, in the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-fourth session, its consideration of the revitalization of the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter;

#### Role and authority of the General Assembly

4. *Welcomes* the holding of interactive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community in the General Assembly, and invites the President of the Assembly to continue with this practice in consultation with Member States;

5. *Notes* the importance of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and invites the President at the sixty-fourth session to submit his views to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-fourth session for its consideration;

#### Working methods

6. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in consultation with Member States, to make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group, including the introduction of a sunset clause;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to respond to the annual review of the Meetings and Publishing Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on the distribution of printed documents to Missions, bearing in mind the cost savings, as well as the reduced environmental impact, which may accrue from this exercise, in order to improve the quality and distribution of those documents;

8. *Invites* the Committee on Information at its thirty-second session to consider the sections on media and visibility in the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group, in particular those that call for less rigid restrictions and better access to people and information, and requests the Committee on Information to consider recommending measures for the operationalization and implementation of aspects thereof in its report to the Assembly through the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at its sixty-fifth session;

9. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group, during the sixty-fourth session, shall further consider options for more time-effective, efficient and secure balloting, reiterating the need to ascertain the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of the balloting process.

On 21 December, the Assembly decided that, in order to rationalize further its methods of work for subsequent sessions, the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee should elect its Rapporteur on the basis of experience and personal competence, as well as rotation among the regional groups as follows: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and Other States (**decision 64/544**).

On 24 December, the Assembly decided that the item on the revitalization of its work would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session (**decision 64/549**).

### 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 in September submitted a report on its work [A/63/47], carried out during seven formal meetings held between November 2008 and September 2009. At its second meeting, the Working Group addressed the framework and modalities in preparation for the intergovernmental negotiations. At its third, fourth and fifth meetings, the Working Group continued to address framework and modalities issues. The results of those consultations were discussed at its sixth meeting and presented to an informal plenary of the Assembly on 29 January. At its seventh meeting in September, the Working Group adopted its draft report to the Assembly.

The Assembly took note of the Working Group's report on 14 September (**decision 63/565 A**). It decided to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary at its sixty-fourth (2009) session, building on the progress achieved during its sixty-third session and the positions and proposals of Member States, while noting the initiative and efforts of the Assembly President and the Working Group Chairperson in

the process of a comprehensive reform of the Council (**decision 63/565 B**).

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-fourth (2010) session (**decision 64/549**).

## Institutional machinery

### General Assembly

The General Assembly met throughout 2009; it resumed and concluded its sixty-third session and held the major part of its sixty-fourth session. The sixty-third session was resumed in plenary meetings on 20 February; 2 and 31 March; 7, 22 and 24 April; 8, 12 and 26 May; 3, 10, 16–17 and 29–30 June; 6, 9, 21, 23–24, 28 and 31 July; 11 August; and 9 and 14 September. The sixty-fourth session opened on 15 September and continued until its suspension on 24 December.

The Assembly held the tenth emergency special session on Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (15–16 January) (see p. 435); interactive thematic dialogues on: access to education in emergency, post-conflict and transition situations caused by man-made conflicts or natural disasters (18 March); the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development (25–27 March) (see p. 792); the global food crisis and the right to food (6 April) (see p. 718); taking collective action to end human trafficking (13 May) (see p. 1092); and energy efficiency, energy conservation and new and renewable sources of energy (18 June) (see p. 996). It also held a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development (24–26 June) (see p. 792).

On 24 September, the Assembly held a high-level meeting to commemorate the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary. On 12 and 13 October, the Assembly held a commemorative meeting to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

### Organization of Assembly sessions

#### 2009 session

On 20 February, the General Assembly, on the proposal of its President, decided that the general debate of the sixty-fourth (2009) session would be held from Wednesday 23 to Saturday 26 September, and from

Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 September, and that those arrangements would in no way create a precedent for future sessions (**decision 63/553**).

By **decision 64/502** of 18 September, the Assembly adopted a number of provisions concerning the organization of the sixty-fourth session [A/64/250].

By **decision 64/501** of 15 September and 27 October, the Assembly authorized a number of subsidiary bodies to meet in New York during the main part of that session.

### 2010 session

High-level plenary meeting on Millennium Declaration

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 July [meeting 95], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/302** [draft: A/63/L.76] without vote [agenda items 44 and 107].

#### 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, by which it adopted the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

1. *Decides* to convene in 2010, at the commencement of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly, on dates to be decided, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, and encourages all Member States to be represented at that level;

2. *Also decides* to hold consultations on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly with a view to concluding consultations before the end of 2009 and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at the beginning of its sixty-fourth session.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to resolution 63/302 (see above), the Secretary General, in August [A/64/263], laid out his proposals for the scope, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly's sixty-fifth session and proposed that the Assembly hold interactive round-table meetings, as well as informal interactive hearings with civil society organizations as part of the preparatory activities.

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 64/184** [draft: A/64/L.36] without vote [agenda items 48 and 114].

#### Organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/2 of 8 September 2000 and 60/1 of 16 September 2005, by which it adopted the United

Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, respectively,

*Recalling also* its resolution 63/302 of 9 July 2009, by which it decided to convene in 2010, at the commencement of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly" requested in resolution 63/302,

*Convinced* that the High-level Plenary Meeting will be a significant opportunity to galvanize commitment, rally support and spur collective action in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

1. *Decides* that the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly shall be held from Monday, 20 September 2010, to Wednesday, 22 September 2010, in New York;

2. *Also decides* to hold the general debate at its sixty-fifth session from Thursday, 23 September 2010, on the understanding that these arrangements shall in no way create a precedent for the general debate at future sessions;

3. *Further decides* that the High-level Plenary Meeting shall focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, taking into account the progress made with regard to the internationally agreed development goals, through a comprehensive review of successes, best practices and lessons learned, obstacles and gaps, challenges and opportunities, leading to concrete strategies for action, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report in this regard in March 2010;

4. *Decides* that the above-mentioned report, together with the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2009* and the 2009 report of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, shall serve as an input for the consultations leading to the High-level Plenary Meeting;

5. *Reiterates* that the High-level Plenary Meeting will be held with the participation of Heads of State or Government, and encourages all Member States to be represented at that level;

6. *Decides* that the High-level Plenary Meeting shall be composed of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six interactive round-table sessions to be held in concurrence with plenary meetings;

7. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session and the President of the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session to jointly preside over the High-level Plenary Meeting;

8. *Decides* that the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, shall participate in the High-level Plenary Meeting;

9. *Also decides* that the plenary meetings shall be organized in accordance with the modalities set forth in annex I to the present resolution and that the list of speakers for the plenary meetings shall be established in accordance with the procedure set forth in that annex;

10. *Emphasizes* that the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, in particular during its 2010 substantive session, including the Development Cooperation Forum and the annual ministerial review, could provide a valuable contribution to the preparations for the High-level Plenary Meeting;

11. *Decides* that the six round-table sessions shall be organized in accordance with the modalities set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

12. *Invites* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the regional commissions of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations and the private sector, to participate in the High-level Plenary Meeting, including in the round tables and in the preparatory process for the Meeting, according to the modalities specified in the annexes to the present resolution, and encourages them to consider initiatives in support of the preparatory process and the Meeting;

13. *Invites* the regional commissions, with the support of the regional development banks and other relevant entities, to hold regional consultations, as appropriate, during the first half of 2010, which will serve to provide inputs to the preparations for the High-level Plenary Meeting as well as the Meeting itself;

14. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as part of the preparatory process for the third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to develop and submit a contribution to the High-level Plenary Meeting;

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, two days of informal interactive hearings no later than June 2010 with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to provide an input to the preparatory process for the High-level Plenary Meeting;

16. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly shall preside over the informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and that the hearings shall be organized in accordance with the modalities set forth in annex III to the present resolution, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be issued as an Assembly document prior to the High-level Plenary Meeting;

17. *Encourages* Member States to actively participate in the hearings at the ambassadorial level to facilitate interaction between the Member States and the representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund to enhance the participation in the hearings of representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations from developing countries, and calls upon Member States and others to support the trust fund generously and speedily;

19. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to continue to hold open, inclusive, timely and transparent consultations with all Member States, with a view to reaching the broadest possible agreement on all major issues relating to the High-level Plenary Meeting, including the adoption of a concise and action-oriented outcome to be agreed by Member States;

20. *Strongly urges* all Member States to actively engage in the process of formal and informal consultations leading to the High-level Plenary Meeting with a view to reaching a successful outcome of the Meeting.

#### ANNEX I

#### Organization of the plenary meetings and establishment of the list of speakers for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly

1. The High-level Plenary Meeting will consist of a total of six meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, as follows:

Monday, 20 September 2010, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, 21 September 2010, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, 22 September 2010, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2. The podium in the General Assembly Hall will have three seats to accommodate the two Co-Chairs and the Secretary-General.

3. At the opening plenary meeting, on Monday morning, 20 September 2010, the initial speakers will be the two Co-Chairs, the Secretary-General, the head of the delegation of the host country of the Organization, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as the Chair of the United Nations Development Group.

4. The list of speakers for the High-level Plenary Meeting will therefore be established on the basis of six meetings. The morning meeting on Monday, 20 September 2010, following the opening of the Meeting will have 20 speaking slots. The morning meetings on Tuesday, 21 September 2010, and Wednesday, 22 September 2010, will each have 30 speaking slots. The afternoon meetings on Monday, 20 September 2010, and Tuesday, 21 September 2010, will each have 50 speaking slots. The afternoon meeting on Wednesday, 22 September 2010, will have 20 speaking slots, since the last hour will be devoted to the closing of the High-level Plenary Meeting.

5. The list of speakers for the High-level Plenary Meeting will be established initially as follows:

(a) The representative of the Secretary-General will draw one name from a first box containing the names of all Member States that will be represented by Heads of State, Heads of Government, vice-presidents, crown princes/princesses, and of the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, should they be represented by their highest-ranking officials. This procedure will be repeated until all names have been drawn from the box, thus establishing the order in which participants will be invited to choose their meetings and select their speaking slots. The representative of the Secretary-General will then draw from a second box the names of those not contained in the first box in accordance with the same procedure;

(b) Six boxes will be prepared, each one representing a meeting and each one containing numbers corresponding to speaking slots at that meeting;

(c) Once the name of a Member State, the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, or Palestine, in its capacity as observer, has been drawn by the representative of the Secretary-General, that Member State, the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, or Palestine, in its capacity as observer, will be invited first to choose a meeting and then to draw from the appropriate box the number indicating the speaking slot in the meeting.

6. The initial list of speakers for the High-level Plenary Meeting as outlined in paragraph 5 above will be established at a meeting to be scheduled in the month of May 2010.

7. Subsequently, when each category of speakers is organized following the order resulting from the selection process outlined in paragraph 5 above, the list of speakers for each meeting will be rearranged in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly:

(a) Heads of State will thus be accorded first priority, followed by Heads of Government; vice-presidents, crown princes/princesses; the highest-ranking official of the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and of Palestine, in its capacity as observer; ministers; and permanent representatives;

(b) In the event that the level at which a statement is to be made is subsequently changed, the speaker will be moved to the next available speaking slot in the appropriate category at the same meeting;

(c) Participants may arrange to exchange their speaking slots in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

(d) Speakers who are not present when their speaking turn comes will be automatically moved to the next available speaking slot within their category.

8. In order to accommodate all speakers at the High-level Plenary Meeting, statements will be limited to five minutes, on the understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts.

9. Without prejudice to other organizations which have observer status in the General Assembly, a representative of each of the following may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the High-level Plenary Meeting:

League of Arab States

African Union

European Union

Organization of the Islamic Conference

World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

10. Other than for Member States, the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the High-level Plenary Meeting will be closed on Monday, 2 August 2010.

11. The arrangements set out above shall in no way create a precedent.

## ANNEX II

### Organization of the interactive round-table sessions for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly

1. The High-level Plenary Meeting will hold six interactive round-table sessions, as follows:

Monday, 20 September 2010, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 21 September 2010, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 22 September 2010, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2. The six round-table sessions will have at least 50 seats each and will be co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government.

3. The Chairs of the six round-table sessions will be from the African States, the Asian States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and Other States. Those 12 Chairs will be selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

4. Following the selection of Chairs of the round-table sessions, the participation of the members of each group will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, ensuring that equitable geographical distribution is maintained, allowing for some flexibility. Member States are encouraged to be represented at the round tables at the level of Head of State or Government.

5. The six round-table sessions will have the overarching objective of "Making it happen by 2015", and each one will focus on one theme, as follows:

Round table 1—Addressing the challenge of poverty, hunger and gender equality

Round table 2—Meeting the goals of health and education

Round table 3—Promoting sustainable development

Round table 4—Addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches

Round table 5—Addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable

Round table 6—Widening and strengthening partnerships

6. Each Head of State or Government or head of delegation attending the round-table sessions may be accompanied by one adviser.

7. The composition of the six round-table sessions will be subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Thus, for each regional group, the distribution of its members for participation in each round-table session will be as follows:

(a) African States: ten Member States;

(b) Asian States: ten Member States;

(c) Eastern European States: five Member States;

(d) Latin American and Caribbean States: seven Member States;

(e) Western European and other States: six Member States;

(f) Other organizations with observer status in the General Assembly: two representatives, in addition to those mentioned in paragraph 9 of annex I to the present resolution;

(g) Entities of the United Nations system: four representatives;

(h) Civil society and non-governmental organizations: four representatives;

(i) Private sector: four representatives.

8. A Member State that is not a member of any of the regional groups may participate in a round-table session to be determined in consultation with the President of the

General Assembly. The Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, as well as the organizations listed in paragraph 9 of annex I to the present resolution, may also participate in different round-table sessions to be determined also in consultation with the President of the Assembly.

9. The list of participants in each round-table session will be made available prior to the meeting.

10. The round-table sessions will be closed to the media and the general public. Accredited delegates and observers will be able to follow the proceedings of the round-table sessions via a closed-circuit television in the overflow room.

11. Summaries of the deliberations of the six round-table sessions will be presented orally by the Chairs of the round-table sessions or their representatives during the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Plenary Meeting.

### ANNEX III

#### Organization of the informal interactive hearings

1. The President of the General Assembly will preside over the informal interactive hearings to be held no later than June 2010. The hearings shall consist of a brief opening plenary meeting followed by four sequential sessions of the hearings on the basis of two sessions a day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Each session will consist of presentations by invited participants from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector and an exchange of views with Member States.

2. The hearings will be attended by representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector, Member States and observers.

3. The President of the General Assembly will determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector.

4. The themes for the hearings will be based on the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General.

5. The President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the plenary meetings of the High-level Plenary Meeting of September 2010.

### ANNEX IV

#### Other participants

1. On the understanding that the principle of precedence will be strictly applied, to allow participation at the level of Heads of State or Government, the Secretary-General, the head of the delegation of the host country of the Organization, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the Secretary-

General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, will be invited to make a statement in the plenary meeting.

2. The President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the plenary meetings and the round tables of the High-level Plenary Meeting of September 2010.

3. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping, selected during the informal interactive hearings, may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the High-level Plenary Meeting, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

4. In addition, interested non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and private sector representatives may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.

5. The arrangements set out above shall in no way create a precedent.

### Credentials

The Credentials Committee, at its meeting of 8 and 11 December [A/64/571], had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, which indicated that 141 Member States had submitted the formal credentials of their representatives. Information concerning the representatives of 51 other Member States had also been communicated. The representative of Zambia expressed concern over the acceptance of the credentials of Guinea and Madagascar in the light of the situation in those countries. The Committee sought information from the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs on communications received from those two Member States. The Chairperson proposed that the Committee defer consideration of the credentials submitted by Guinea and Madagascar, and accept those of the remaining Member States. The Committee adopted the proposal on the understanding that the representatives of both Guinea and Madagascar would continue to have the right to participate provisionally in the sixty-fourth session with all rights and privileges until the Credentials Committee was able to review the matter and make a final recommendation to the General Assembly. Should there be a formal objection during the sixty-fourth session to the participation of either country, that objection could be referred to the Credentials Committee for consideration.

The Committee adopted a resolution accepting the credentials received, and recommended a draft resolution to the Assembly for adoption. On 16 December, the Assembly, by **resolution 64/126**, approved the Committee's report.

### Agenda

During the resumed sixty-third (2009) session, the General Assembly, by **decision 63/503 B**, decided to include additional items 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 7 April (**decision 63/550 B**) and 30 June (**decision 63/550 C**) decided on those items to be deferred until the second part of its resumed sixty-third (2009) session, its sixty-fourth (2009) session and the first part of its resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session. On 9 September, the Assembly deferred until its sixty-fourth (2009) session consideration of the item on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (**decision 63/559**).

At its sixty-fourth session, the Assembly, by **decision 64/503** of 18 September, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/64/250], adopted the agenda [A/64/251] and the allocation of agenda items [A/64/252] for its sixty-fourth session. The Assembly deferred consideration of, and included in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth (2010) session, the item "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India". By the same decision, it included additional items in the agenda on observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in the General Assembly; United Nations University; observer status in the General Assembly for the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly; and question of the Comorian island of Mayotte. The Assembly also decided to consider in plenary the agenda item "South-South cooperation for development". The Assembly on 24 December decided to retain 84 items for consideration during its resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session (**decision 64/549**).

By **decision 64/524** of 10 December, the Assembly deferred consideration of the agenda item "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations" and included it in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth (2010) session. By **decision 64/548 A** of 24 December, the Assembly deferred until its resumed sixty-fourth session (2010) consideration of the items on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations; proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011; and review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272. It deferred until its sixty-fifth (2010) session consideration of reports on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, and on human resources management.

### 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-fifth (2010) session (**decision 64/517**), and on 10 December, the programme of work and timetable of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee (**decision 64/522**). The Assembly noted, on 16 December, that the Sixth (Legal) Committee had decided to adopt the provisional programme of work for the Assembly's sixty-fifth session (**decision 64/525**). On 18 and 21 December, respectively, it approved the programme of work for the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee (**decision 64/538**), and the programme of work of the Second Committee (**decision 64/543**).

### Security Council

The Security Council held 194 formal meetings in 2009, adopted 48 resolutions and issued 35 presidential statements. It considered 46 agenda items (see APPENDIX IV). The President made 35 statements to the press on behalf of Council members. Monthly assessments on the Council's work in 2009 were issued by the successive Council Presidents [S/2009/107, S/2009/138, S/2009/229, S/2009/353, S/2009/363, S/2009/412, S/2009/447, S/2009/557, S/2010/315, S/2009/625, S/2009/653, S/2010/387]. In a 3 September note [A/64/300], the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2 of the UN Charter, and with the consent of the Council, notified the General Assembly of 81 matters relative to the maintenance of peace and security that were being dealt with by the Council since his previous annual notification [YUN 2008, p. 1525]. Items with which the Council had ceased to deal had been deleted and were recorded in document [S/2009/10/Add.9]. The Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note on 12 November (**decision 64/509**).

On 13 November, the Assembly took note of the Council's report for the period of 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 [A/64/2] (**decision 64/510**). It decided, on 24 December, that the item on the Council's report would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session (**decision 64/549**).

### Membership

The General Assembly continued to examine the question of expanding the Council membership. 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/63/47]. (For details and related Assembly decisions, see p. 1374.)

## Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council held its organizational session for 2009 on 15 January, 10 February, 26 March and 20 April; a resumed organizational session on 18 May; its 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 27 April; its substantive session in Geneva from 6 to 31 July; and its resumed substantive session on 8 October and 15 December in New York. The Council's work for 2009 was covered in its report to the General Assembly [A/64/3 & Add.1].

On 15 January, the Council elected its Bureau (a President and four Vice-Presidents) for 2009 (see APPENDIX III) and adopted the agenda of its organizational session [E/2009/2 & Corr.1; E/2009/2/Add.1 & Corr.1,2 & Add.2].

On 10 February, the Council approved the provisional agenda of its 2009 substantive session (**decision 2009/203**) and decided on the working arrangements for that session (**decision 2009/205**). On 6 July, it adopted the agenda [E/2009/100 & Corr.1], and approved the programme of work of that session [E/2009/L.8], and approved the requests for hearings from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) [E/2009/107] (**decision 2009/213**).

On 24 July, the Council approved the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 2010 and 2011 in the economic, social and related fields (**decision 2009/218**).

The General Assembly, by **decision 64/549** of 24 December, decided that the report of the Economic and Social Council would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session.

### Sessions and segments

During 2009, the Economic and Social Council adopted 35 resolutions and 69 decisions [E/2009/99]. By **decision 2009/205** of 10 February, the Council decided that the high-level segment would be held from 6 to 9 July; the dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions would be held on 10 July; the coordination segment from 10 to 14 July; the operational activities segment from 15 to 17 July; the humanitarian affairs segment from 20 to 22 July; and the general segment from 23 to 30 July. It also decided to conclude its work on 31 July. On the same date, the Council decided that the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD would be held in New York on 27 April (**decision 2009/202**).

### 2009 and 2010 sessions

On 10 February, the Council decided that the work of the operational activities segment of its 2009 substantive session should 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 United Nations system; and Assembly resolution 63/232 [YUN 2008, p. 962] on the operational activities for development of the United Nations system (**decision 2009/206**).

On 26 March (**decision 2009/207**), the Council decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its 2009 substantive session would be "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance: present challenges and their impact on the future"; and that it would convene two panels on: respecting and implementing guiding principles of humanitarian assistance at the operational level: assisting the affected populations; and addressing the impact of current global challenges and trends on the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. On the same date, it decided that the theme for the item on regional cooperation would be "Regional perspectives on the global economic and financial crisis, including the impact on global public health" (**decision 2009/208**).

On 20 April, the Council decided that the theme for its 2010 thematic discussion of the high-level segment would be "Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women" (**decision 2009/210**).

On 18 May, the Council included in the provisional agenda of its 2009 substantive session an item entitled "Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development", and a supplementary sub-item entitled "Rehabilitation of the marshes in the southern regions of Iraq" (**decision 2009/212**).

### Work programme

On 10 February, the Economic and Social Council, having considered its proposed basic programme of work for 2009 and 2010 [E/2009/1], took note of the list of questions for inclusion in its programme of work for 2010 (**decision 2009/204**).

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## Coordination, monitoring and cooperation

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### Institutional mechanisms

#### CEB activities

According to its annual overview report for 2009–2010 [E/2010/69], the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) continued

to focus on the global financial and economic crisis. Together with the international community, CEB monitored the development of the crisis, its effect on society and its impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51]. The Joint Crisis Initiatives, launched by CEB [YUN 2008, p. 1527] as an immediate response to the global crisis, enhanced the UN system's role in dealing with the crisis and its impact on development. CEB also intensified its efforts for a coordinated and effective UN system delivery on climate change, and led efforts to simplify and harmonize business practices. In addition, it took steps to improve the safety and security of UN staff members. A new package of United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidance was developed to offer UN country teams greater flexibility, allowing for closer alignment with national planning processes. Work continued to strengthen the resident coordinator system and implement the management and accountability system for the UN development and resident coordinator systems. CEB also addressed several other cross-cutting issues, including the UN system's contribution to the Economic and Social Council, system-wide coherence (see p. 1367), collaboration with the Joint Inspection Unit, the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) (see p. 809), science and technology (see p. 813), and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (see p. 1416).

CEB held two regular sessions in 2009: the first in Paris (4 April) [CEB/2009/1] and the second in New York (30 October) [CEB/2009/2]. Its principal subsidiary bodies met as follows: the High-level Committee on Management, seventeenth (Rome, Italy, 24–25 February) [CEB/2009/3], and eighteenth (New York, 29–30 September) [CEB/2009/6] sessions; and the High-level Committee on Programmes, seventeenth (Geneva, 26–27 February) [CEB/2009/4], and eighteenth (New York, 17–18 September) [CEB/2009/5] sessions.

#### *CEB report*

**CPC consideration.** The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) [A/64/16] considered the CEB annual overview report for 2008/09 [YUN 2008, p. 1527]. CPC recommended that the General Assembly bring to the Secretary-General's attention the need to continue to enhance CEB's system-wide coordination activity. It requested CEB to: ensure that support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) [YUN 2001, p. 899] remained a UN system priority; enhance the UN role in dealing with the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development; and invite executive heads to closely monitor the development and social effects of the crisis and its impact on the achievement of the

MDGs and of progress in reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries. The Secretary-General should initiate a comprehensive evaluation of the management and accountability system of the UN development and resident coordinator systems, including the "functional firewall" for the resident coordinator system, and report on the results to the Economic and Social Council in 2012. He should also report to the Council on the results of the joint review by CEB and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on options for enhancing the UN system's contribution to the Council's work. CPC encouraged CEB to use a balanced approach in setting UN system priorities in implementing the decisions of Member States, and encouraged more frequent and substantive dialogue between CEB and the Member States to enhance the Board's transparency and accountability. CPC reiterated its recommendations [YUN 2008, p. 1527] that any criteria and methodology for the comprehensive evaluation of the eight "Delivering as one" pilot projects (see p. 1367) should first be considered and approved by the General Assembly and that UN support to the projects should not prejudice the outcome of the inter-governmental deliberations on system-wide coherence by the Assembly.

On 24 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the CEB annual overview report for 2008/09 (**decision 2009/217**).

#### **Programme coordination**

The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational meeting (30 April) and its forty-ninth session (8 June–1 July) in New York [A/64/16].

CPC considered questions related to the 2008–2009 programme budget and the 2010–2011 proposed programme budget and strategic framework. It considered strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy (see p. 1418); the evaluation of UN support for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and Africa [ibid.]; the triennial review of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations made at its forty-sixth session on: the in-depth evaluation of political affairs [ibid.] and the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration [ibid.]; and the thematic evaluations of lessons learned: protocols and practices [ibid.] and of UN coordinating bodies [ibid.]. In addition to its review of CEB's annual report for 2008/09 [ibid.], CPC considered the UN system support for NEPAD [ibid.], as well as the improvement of its working methods and procedures.

On 24 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the CPC report on its forty-ninth session (**decision 2009/217**).

## Other coordination matters

### Follow-up to international conferences

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/29 [YUN 2008, p. 1528], the Secretary-General in June submitted a report [A/64/87-E/2009/89] 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 illustrated how the annual ministerial review had provided substantive coherence to the follow-up to conferences. The report also described how the Council's biennial Development Cooperation Forum [YUN 2008, p. 902] had helped to advance the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, and how the General Assembly's annual specific meeting on development provided similar substantive coherence for the Assembly's work and that of its relevant Committees. It therefore suggested that the integrated and coordinated follow-up could be enhanced by reorienting its focus away from process-related coordination to substantive coherence. To facilitate the reorientation of the integrated follow-up to conferences, it proposed that the Secretary-General prepare a quadrennial report, the first of which should be submitted to the Council and the Assembly in 2015. The report should assess progress in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits, enable the Assembly and the Council to determine areas in which additional oversight and guidance were needed, and assess how follow-up mechanisms had contributed to the follow-up, as well as the effectiveness of the UN system in providing policy advice in support of national policies.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the report on 31 July (**decision 2009/259**).

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 31 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2009/29** [draft: E/2009/L.32] without vote [agenda items 4, 6 & 8].

#### **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* General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991, 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 52/12B of 19 December 1997, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/265 of 30 June 2006 and 61/16 of 20 November 2006,

*Noting* the current segment structure of its substantive session, and bearing in mind the role of the coordination segment, as outlined in relevant resolutions,

*Recalling* its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995 and 2002/1 of 26 July 2002 and its relevant resolutions and decisions on 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,

*Recognizing* the important role of the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum in strengthening the Economic and Social Council and in promoting the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Underscores* the need to implement General Assembly resolution 57/270 B as well as subsequent resolutions relevant to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;
3. *Reaffirms* its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination as well as its role in promoting 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;
4. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations system, including the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to support, in accordance with their respective mandates, the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;
5. *Recognizes* the strengthened cooperation between the Economic and Social 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;
6. *Reiterates* the invitation extended to 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 Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, 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 General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16;
7. *Reaffirms* the important contribution of civil society to the implementation of conference outcomes, and emphasizes that the contribution of non-governmental organizations and the private sector to the work of the Economic and Social Council should be further encouraged and improved, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Council;
8. *Recognizes* the need for a more effective consideration of the issue of 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, at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, and in this regard decides to review the programme of work for the substantive session of the Council so as to avoid duplication and overlap between the coordination and general segments;

9. *Decides* to further review the periodicity 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 United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16, for consideration and decision at the substantive session of 2010 of the Council;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the views of Member States, a report 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 United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16, which should also include recommendations on the periodicity of future reports, and to submit the report for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010.

On 24 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the 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-fourth (2010) session (**decision 64/549**).

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## UN and other organizations

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### Cooperation with organizations

#### African Union

In 2009, the African Union continued its cooperation with the United Nations. The General Assembly, in **resolution 63/310** of 14 September (see p. 106), invited the Secretary-General to request all relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes to intensify their efforts to support cooperation with the African Union.

#### Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

On 5 November [A/64/233], Azerbaijan, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, Timor-Leste and the United Republic of Tanzania requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of an item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)". Those Member States noted that the Assembly had granted IOM observer status in 1992 and that the United Nations and IOM had signed a cooperative agreement in 1996. While the Assembly in its resolution 51/148 [YUN 1996, p. 1354] had noted the conclusion of the agreement, it did not establish systematic and periodic reporting on IOM/UN cooperation. Those Member States were therefore requesting that the Secretary-General include reporting on

that cooperation in his biennial report on cooperation between the United Nations and other regional organizations.

### Collective Security Treaty Organization

On 14 July [A/64/191], the Russian Federation, on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of a supplementary item on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization". The Organization, which had observer status with the Assembly since 2004, had established contacts with the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. A resolution on cooperation between the two organizations would permit the strengthening of interaction between them, expand their mutual capabilities and promote the safeguarding of peace, security and cooperation at the regional and global levels.

On 24 December, by **decision 64/549**, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session.

### Shanghai Cooperation Organization

On 20 November 2008 [A/64/141], China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of an item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)". In an explanatory memorandum annexed to the request, the Members stated that SCO, established in 2001, had enjoyed observer status with the Assembly since 2004 and cooperated closely with the UN system on most of its major areas of activity. To enhance the practical component of that cooperation and ensure its synergy for addressing common tasks in the socio-economic field, it was necessary to make relations between SCO and the United Nations more systematic.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 64/183** [draft: A/64/L.34 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 124].

#### Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* that one of the objectives of the United Nations is to achieve cooperation in maintaining international peace and security and solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

*Recalling also* the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities on the basis of regional cooperation to promote the goals and objectives of the United Nations,

*Recalling further* its resolution 59/48 of 2 December 2004, by which it granted observer status to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

*Taking into consideration* the fact that countries with economies in transition are among the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and in this regard recalling its resolution 61/210 of 20 December 2006, in which it proposed that the United Nations system enhance dialogue with regional and subregional cooperation organizations whose membership includes countries with economies in transition and increase support provided to them,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the declaration on the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization confirms the commitment of its member States to the principles of the Charter,

*Noting* that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has become an essential forum for addressing security in the region in all its dimensions,

*Convinced* that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization helps to promote the goals and objectives of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization aimed at strengthening peace, security and stability in the region, countering terrorism, separatism and extremism, drug trafficking and other types of criminal activity of a transnational character and promoting regional cooperation in various areas such as trade and economic development, energy, transportation, agriculture and agro-industry, the regulation of migration, banking and finances, information and telecommunications, science and new technology, customs, education, public health, environmental protection and reducing the danger of natural disasters, as well as in other related areas;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening dialogue, cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and proposes that the Secretary-General, for this purpose, hold regular consultations with the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization through the existing inter-agency forums and formats, including the annual consultations between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the heads of regional organizations;

3. *Proposes* that the specialized agencies, organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system cooperate with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization with a view to jointly implementing programmes to achieve their goals, and in this regard recommends that the heads of such entities commence consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

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

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

## Participation in UN work

### Observer status

#### *International Olympic Committee*

On 14 July [A/64/145], Italy requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of an item on observer status for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the General Assembly. An explanatory memorandum recalled UN support, through Assembly resolutions since 1993, for IOC and the Olympic Movement and their contribution to the UN mission to promote mutual understanding, solidarity and peaceful dialogue among communities. IOC had worked with the United Nations, Governments and the international community in using sport to transform the lives of millions of people, especially young citizens across the globe, delivering education and services to the vulnerable, supporting environmental campaigns and providing a vehicle for the UN peace-keeping missions. The cornerstone of IOC social responsibility was to support the United Nations for the achievement of the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]. As part of its reasons for seeking observer status, IOC identified six areas where sport could make an impact: eradicate extreme poverty; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and women's issues; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development. IOC provided support through national programmes or through UN agencies in all those areas, and intended to maintain that momentum and support the United Nations in pursuing its mandate, as well as in intensifying its communication and collaborative action with the Organization.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 October [meeting 21], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/64/458 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 64/3** without vote [agenda item 167].

#### **Observer status for the International Olympic Committee in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Olympic Committee 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.

### *International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission*

On 1 July [A/64/142], Switzerland requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of an item on observer status for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC) in the General Assembly. An explanatory memorandum annexed to the request stated that IHFFC, established in 1991 under the Protocol additional to the 1949 Geneva Convention relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict, was a permanent international body, headquartered in Berne, Switzerland, whose main purpose was to investigate allegations of grave breaches and serious violations of international humanitarian law. Having observer status in the Assembly would enhance IHFFC presence in fora and bodies where the solutions to conflicts were discussed, and enable it to better perform the functions assigned to it by international humanitarian law.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 16 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/64/456], adopted **resolution 64/121** without vote [agenda item 165].

#### **Observer status for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission 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.

### *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*

On 14 July [A/64/144], the United Republic of Tanzania requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth 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 finance a response to the epidemic. The Fund's participation as an observer in the Assembly's proceedings would strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the Fund and facilitate the Fund's work in its mission to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 16 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/64/457], adopted **resolution 64/122** without vote [agenda item 166].

#### **Observer status for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,

1. *Decides* to invite the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria 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.

### *International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa*

On 6 August [A/64/193], Kenya, in its capacity as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa, requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of an item on observer status in the Assembly for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa. An explanatory memorandum stated that the intergovernmental organization's main objective was to provide a comprehensive framework for cooperation and collaboration to end violence and resolve intractable conflicts in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. It sought to collaborate with the United Nations and observer status would strengthen and enhance its scope of interactions.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 16 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/64/459], adopted **resolution 64/123** without vote [agenda item 168].

#### **Observer status for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa 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.

### *Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean*

On 7 October [A/64/232], France and Malta requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of an item on observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) in the Assembly. An explanatory memorandum stated that PAM, established in 2006, had as its main objective to bring together all 25 littoral States of the Mediterranean on an equal footing under a unique forum of their own. Since its inception, it had successfully cooperated with the United Nations. Strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and PAM could play a role in achieving desired results in the region. It proposed that the Assembly invite PAM to participate in its work and that of its subsidiary organs, as well as in international conferences convened under UN auspices.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 16 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/64/567], adopted **resolution 64/124** without vote [agenda item 169].

#### **Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in the General Assembly**

##### *The General Assembly,*

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

1. *Decides* to invite the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean 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.

#### *Council of Presidents of the General Assembly*

On 12 November [A/64/235], Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of an item on observer status in the Assembly for the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly. An explanatory memorandum stated that the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly, which consisted of former Assembly Presidents, was established in 1997 as a mechanism to coordinate their collective diplomatic and international experience, with the aim of supporting the work of the United Nations. Observer status would promote consultation and cooperation between the Council and the principal UN system organs and serve as a focal point for the continuing supportive involvement of the Council of Presidents in the work and objectives of the Assembly.

The Sixth Committee considered the item on 9 and 14 December [A/64/568]. At the latter meeting, Saudi

Arabia, on behalf of the sponsoring countries, withdrew the draft resolution [A/C.6/64/L.20].

The Assembly took note of the report of the Sixth Committee [A/64/568] on 16 December (**decision 64/528**).

#### *Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization*

On 15 September [A/64/231], Honduras requested the inclusion in the agenda of General Assembly's sixty-fourth session of an item on observer status for the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization (IREO). An explanatory memorandum stated that IREO was established to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. Its work was directly related to those MDGs addressing issues of environmental sustainability and creating a global partnership.

#### **Non-governmental organizations**

##### *Committee on NGOs*

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations held its regular 2009 session (19–28 January and 2 February) [E/2009/32 (Part I) & Corr.1] and its resumed session (18–27 May) [E/2009/32 (Part II)] in New York. In January, the Committee considered 153 applications for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, including applications deferred from its 1999–2008 sessions. It recommended 64 applications for consultative status, deferred consideration of 82, suspended consideration of one, took note of the withdrawal of two and closed consideration of four. It did not recommend one request deferred from previous sessions. The Committee also had before it four requests for reclassification of consultative status, of which it recommended three and deferred one. It took note of 95 quadrennial reports, deferred consideration of one and heard 14 NGO representatives. The Committee recommended four draft decisions for action by the Council.

The Committee also considered the strengthening of the NGO section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat; reviewed its working methods relating to the implementation of Council resolution 1996/31 [YUN 1996, p. 1360], including the process of accreditation of NGO representatives, and Council decision 1995/304 [YUN 1995, p. 1445]; and discussed the general voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE).

On 27 July, the Economic and Social Council granted consultative status to 64 organizations, reclassified three from the roster to special consultative status, noted that the Committee had taken note of

94 quadrennial reports, closed consideration of four requests for consultative status, and noted the withdrawal by two organizations of their applications for consultative status (**decision 2009/221**).

On the same day, the Council took note of the Committee's decision to submit, at its resumed session, a list of NGOs that had failed to submit their quadrennial reports for two or more consecutive periods, for suspension of their consultative status (**decision 2009/222**).

On 19 January, the Committee heard a complaint by Algeria concerning the Arab Commission for Human Rights, an organization with special consultative status with the Council. On 28 January, by a roll-call vote of 18 in favour, with one abstention, the Committee recommended suspension of the consultative status of that NGO for one year, and requested that it submit a list of its members and associates by 1 April 2010, prior to consideration of the reinstatement of its status. On 27 July, the Council endorsed the Committee's recommendation (**decision 2009/223**).

The Committee also decided not to grant consultative status to the NGO Associação Brasileira de Gays, Lésbicas e Transgêneros. However, on 27 July, the Council decided to grant special consultative status to that organization by a roll-call vote of 25 to 12, with 13 abstentions (**decision 2009/224**).

On the same date, the Council took note of the Committee's report on its 2009 regular session (**decision 2009/225**).

At its resumed session in May, the Committee considered 142 applications for consultative status with the Council, including 82 applications deferred from its 1999–2009 sessions. It recommended granting consultative status to 36 NGOs, not granting consultative status to one and reclassifying the status of one. It further recommended that consideration of four applications be closed, one suspended and 101 deferred, including 62 for which the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee was pending. The Committee reviewed 123 quadrennial reports, 14 of which had been deferred from previous sessions, and took note of 110. It recommended the suspension of consultative status of 94 organizations for one year, in accordance with Council resolution 2008/4 [YUN 2008, p. 1540]. The Committee interacted with repre-

sentatives of 19 NGOs and recommended five draft decisions for action by the Council.

The Committee also considered the strengthening of the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and reviewed its working methods relating to the implementation of Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of NGO representatives, and Council decision 1995/304; and considered the implementation of resolution 2006/46 [YUN 2006, p. 1001] and decision 2008/217 [YUN 2008, p. 927].

On 27 July, the Council granted consultative status to 36 organizations, reclassified one from special to general consultative status, and noted that the Committee had taken note of 110 quadrennial reports and that it had decided to suspend its consideration of the application submitted by the Ethiopian Human Rights Council. It further decided to close consideration of four requests for consultative status, which included the rejection of proposed amendments to the draft decision [E/2009/L.29] related to the Dynamic Christian World Mission Foundation by a roll-call vote of 23 to 22, with 3 abstentions (**decision 2009/226**).

On the application of the NGO Democracy Coalition Project, the Committee had recommended that the Council not to grant consultative status to that NGO. However, on 27 July, the Council decided to grant special consultative status to that organization by a roll-call vote of 30 to 9, with 8 abstentions (**decision 2009/227**).

On the same day, on the recommendation of the Committee, the Council decided, in accordance with its resolution 2008/4, to suspend immediately, for one year, the consultative status of 94 organizations with outstanding quadrennial reports, and requested the Secretary-General to advise them accordingly (**decision 2009/228**).

The Council took note of the Committee's report on its resumed 2009 session (**decision 2009/230**); decided that the Committee's 2010 regular session would be held from 25 January to 3 February and the resumed session from 26 May to 4 June 2010; and approved the provisional agenda for that session (**decision 2009/229**).