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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to
the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum**

**Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its
sixtieth session that are of specific significance for the work
programme of the United Nations Environment Programme**

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note is a standing reporting requirement of the Governing Council, a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, and in its annex provides information on issues arising from the resolutions adopted at the sixtieth session of the General Assembly which specifically call for action by, or are of relevance to, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The annex to the present note is being circulated without formal editing.

* UNEP/GCSS.IX/1.

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Annex

Resolutions calling for action, or of direct relevance to UNEP

1. The High-level Plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) adopted the **2005 World Summit Outcome** on 16 September 2005 (resolution 60/1). During the Summit, world leaders emphasized that the achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, 'Ensuring Environmental Sustainability', was a pre-condition for meeting all the other MDG's. Sustainable development, especially its environmental component is covered substantively by the Outcome document for over three pages under the heading "Sustainable development: managing and protecting our common environment".

2. In the chapeau of this section, poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are identified as overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. The section also includes specific references to a number of key environmental issues, including:

- § Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- § Climate change, in particular in the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol;
- § Energy related issues, especially in connection with climate change;
- § United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life";
- § Desertification and land degradation, addressed through the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD);
- § Biodiversity, addressed through the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- § Establishing a worldwide early-warning system for all natural hazards with regional nodes;
- § Implementation of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction;
- § Assistance to developing countries' efforts to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans as part of their national development strategies and to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;
- § Development and dissemination of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies;
- § Conservation, sustainable management and development of all types of forests;
- § Sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life cycle;
- § Integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas;
- § Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its replenishment.

3. The 2005 Summit Outcome also contains a number of other areas which have direct bearing on UNEP's activities, particularly in terms of capacity development. These include south-south cooperation, peace building and human security, gender equality and empowerment of women, science and technology for development, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

4. In follow-up to the Outcome of the 2005 Summit the President of the General Assembly's 60th session has convened a series of consultations to deal with issues such as the establishment of a Peace Building Commission and a Human Rights Council, as well as a comprehensive international treaty on terrorism. General Assembly resolution 60/180 of 20 December 2005, established '**The Peacebuilding Commission**'. The Commission is defined as an intergovernmental advisory body that will make sure attention is maintained on the countries in question, setting its agenda at the request of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Secretary-General, or Member States on the "verge of lapsing or relapsing into conflict." The Commission will act only by consensus, proposing integrated strategies for stabilization, economic recovery and development, and providing recommendations for improving the coordination of the UN system in those efforts. One of the objectives of the Commission will be to focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development.

5. In other areas the General Assembly, on 23 December 2005, approved the establishment of an Independent Audit Advisory Committee, to assist with its oversight responsibilities, while an Ethics Office is also in the final stages of becoming operational. Further consultations on UN management reform, development and ECOSOC revitalization are on-going and the Secretary-General is in the process of establishing a high-level panel to consider system-wide coherence in the fields of humanitarian assistance, development and environment.
6. In terms of the latter process, and of particular importance to UNEP, the Summit adopted a paragraph on environmental governance, which states that, "Recognizing the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation, better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties, and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building, we agree to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework to address this need, including a more integrated structure, building on existing institutions and internationally agreed instruments, as well as the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies." The General Assembly President has indicated that a working group will meet early in 2006 to consider means of implementing this task.
7. A more detailed account and analysis of the 2005 Summit Outcome Document and its implications for UNEP is contained in Governing Council document UNEP/GCSS.IX/8 on the 'Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum'.
8. The General Assembly adopted resolution 60/189, entitled, '**Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its twenty-third session**', on 22 December 2005. In the preambular paragraphs of the resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed the role of the UNEP as the principal body within the UN system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. It also reaffirmed that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in environment-related fields are important components of the work of UNEP.
9. The Assembly took note of the report of UNEP's Governing Council on its session and the decisions contained therein, and that the Governing Council, at its twenty-third session, discussed all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance (IEG) as contained in its decision SS.VII/1, and that reporting on IEG is included on the agenda of its ninth special session. The Assembly welcomed the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and called for the intensification of on-going efforts to implement the Plan with regard both to mobilizing adequate resources, as well as the strengthening of cooperation between the UNEP and other stakeholders, based on their comparative advantages, and invited Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance for its full implementation.
10. The Assembly also welcomed the continued efforts by UNEP through the joint UNEP/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Environment Unit, taking into account the respective mandates of relevant UN entities towards the strengthening of environmental emergency response and disaster prevention, preparedness and early warning systems.
11. The Assembly emphasized the need for UNEP, within its mandate, to further contribute to sustainable development programmes, the implementation of Agenda 21 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development's (WSSD) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at all levels and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission.
12. It recognized the need to strengthen the scientific base of UNEP, as recommended by the inter-governmental consultation on strengthening its scientific base, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, including through the provision of adequate financial resources.
13. The Assembly recalled the resolve of Member States to promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, aiming to achieve that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment using transparent and science-based risk assessment and risk management procedure, by

adopting and implementing a voluntary strategic approach to international management of chemicals, and to support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance, as appropriate.

14. The Assembly called upon UNEP to continue its activities related to SIDS, in pursuance of the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS held in Mauritius, in January 2005.

15. The Assembly emphasized the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant UN organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and welcomed the continued active participation of UNEP in the UN Development Group (UNDG).

16. The Assembly welcomed the progress made in strengthening the role and financial situation of UNEP, including the significant broadening of the donor base and increasing total contributions to the Environment Fund, and in this regard noted that the Governing Council will review the implementation of those provisions at its twenty-fourth session. It reiterated the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the UNEP, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlined the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs in the context of the UN regular budget. It also emphasized the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the UNEP, and requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other UN organs and organizations in Nairobi.

17. Finally, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of UNEP on its ninth special session".

18. By its resolution 60/193 of 22 December 2005, on the **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**, the General Assembly reaffirmed the continuing need to ensure a balance among economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development. The Assembly noted that CSD at its thirteenth session adopted policy decisions on options and practical measures aimed at accelerating progress in implementation in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements. The Assembly reiterated that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for UN activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration and in WSSD's Plan of Implementation.

19. The Assembly called upon Governments, all relevant international and regional organizations, ECOSOC, the UN funds and programmes, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, GEF and other intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, as well as major groups, to take action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at WSSD, and encouraged them to report on concrete progress.

20. The Assembly encouraged Governments to participate at the appropriate level with representatives, including ministers, from the relevant departments and organizations working in the areas of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change, as well as finance, in CSD's fourteenth session. It reaffirmed the need to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21, including through the mobilization of financial and technological resources, as well as capacity-building programmes, particularly for developing countries, and encouraged Governments and organizations at all levels, as well as major groups, including the scientific community and educators, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities to support CSD's work, including through voluntary multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives.

21. The Assembly further noted cooperative inter-agency work being undertaken in follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable, and requested the Secretary General to report to the 61st session of the Assembly, on action taken by the United Nations system in the thematic areas addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its current two year cycle, with a view to facilitate an in-depth consideration of system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination in accordance with the mandates agreed upon in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

22. The General Assembly adopted resolution 60/47 on the **'Question of Antarctica'** on 8 December 2005. By that resolution, the Assembly, conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica

to the international community, including for international peace and security, the global and regional environment, its effects on global and regional climate conditions, and scientific research, noted with satisfaction the entry into force of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on 14 January 1998, under which Antarctica has been designated as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science. It took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica and the role accorded by the Secretary-General to UNEP in preparing his report, and also of the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings. It recalled the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21 that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should, as provided for in article III of the Antarctic Treaty, continue: (a) To ensure that data and information resulting from such research are freely available to the international community; (b) To enhance the access of the international scientific community and the specialized agencies of the UN system to such data and information, including the encouragement of periodic seminars and symposiums. The Assembly welcomed the invitations to UNEP's Executive Director to attend Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urged the parties to continue to do so for future consultative meetings. It further welcomed the practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provide the Secretary-General with information on their meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and encouraged the parties to continue to do so. The Assembly decided to remain seized of the matter.

23. The Assembly adopted resolution 60/30 entitled '**Oceans and the law of the sea**' on 29 November 2005, with a vote of 141 in favour, one against and 4 abstentions. In the preambular paragraphs, the Assembly recalled that marine science is important for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict and respond to natural events, and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, by improving knowledge, through sustained research efforts and the evaluation of monitoring results, and applying such knowledge to management and decision-making.

24. The Assembly recalled its decision, in resolutions 57/141 and 58/240, to establish a regular process under the UN for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments, as recommended by WSSD, and noted the need for cooperation among all States to this end. It also reiterated its concern at the adverse impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including corals, of human activities, such as over-utilization of living marine resources, the use of destructive practices, physical impacts by ships, the introduction of alien invasive species and marine pollution from all sources, including from land-based sources and vessels, in particular through the illegal discharge of oil and other harmful substances, the loss or release of fishing gear and the dumping of hazardous waste such as radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals.

25. The operative part of the resolution contains sixteen sections, including on one on 'capacity-building', in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, recognized the need to build the capacity of developing States to raise awareness of, and support implementation of, improved waste management practices, noting the particular vulnerability of SIDS to the impact of marine pollution from land-based sources and marine debris.

26. The Assembly encouraged States to assist developing States, and especially LDCs and SIDS, as well as coastal African States in the preparation of submissions to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, including the assessment of the nature and extent of the continental shelf of a coastal State through a desktop study, and the delineation of the outer limits of its continental shelf. In the operative section of the resolution on the 'continental shelf and the work of the Commission', the Assembly noted with satisfaction the progress in the Commission's work, that it is giving consideration to three submissions regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf, and that a number of States have advised of their intention to make submissions in the future. It approved the convening by the Secretary-General of the seventeenth session of the Commission in New York from 20 March to 21 April 2006, and of the eighteenth session of the Commission in New York from 21 August to 15 September 2006, on the understanding that the following periods will be used for the technical examination of submissions at the GIS laboratories and other technical facilities of the Division: 20-31 March 2006; 10-21 April 2006; 23 August to 5 September 2006; and 11-15 September 2006.

27. In the section of the resolution on the 'marine environment, marine resources, marine biodiversity and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems', the Assembly emphasized the importance of the implementation of Part XII of the Convention to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, and called upon

all States to cooperate and take measures, directly or through competent international organizations, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The Assembly encouraged States to ratify or accede to international agreements addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, as well as agreements that provide for compensation for damage resulting from marine pollution, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with the Convention, aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements.

28. The Assembly called upon States to take all appropriate measures to control, reduce and minimize, to the fullest extent possible, marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, and to advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. It welcomed the convening of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA in Beijing from 16 to 20 October 2006 as an opportunity to discuss marine debris in relation to the source categories of the GPA, and urged broad high-level participation.

29. The Assembly further welcomed the continued work of States, UNEP and regional organizations in the implementation of the GPA and encouraged increased emphasis on the link between freshwater, coastal zone and marine resources in the implementation of international development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration and of the time-bound targets in WSSD's Plan of Implementation, in particular the target on sanitation.

30. The Assembly noted the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, and the CBD elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity; and reaffirmed the need for States and competent international organizations to urgently consider ways to integrate and improve, based on the best available scientific information and in accordance with the Convention and related agreements and instruments, the management of risks to the marine biodiversity of seamounts, cold water corals, hydrothermal vents and certain other underwater features. It reaffirmed the need to continue efforts to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the possible establishment of marine protected areas.

31. The Assembly also noted the work of States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, including CBD, in the assessment of scientific information on, and compilation of ecological criteria for the identification of, marine areas that require protection, in light of the objective of WSSD to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools such as the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012. It also noted the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis report and the urgent need to protect the marine biodiversity expressed therein. It called for urgent action to address, in accordance with international law, destructive practices that have adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals.

32. The Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. It also reiterated its support for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), taking note of the its General Meeting, held in Mahe, Seychelles, from 25 to 27 April 2005, and supported the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity and the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity related to coral reefs, and noted the progress that ICRI and other relevant bodies have made to incorporate cold water coral ecosystems into their programmes and activities and to promote the conservation and sustainable use of all coral reef resources. The Assembly further emphasized the need to mainstream sustainable coral reef management and integrated watershed management into national development strategies, as well as into the activities of relevant UN agencies and programmes, international financial institutions and the donor community, and encouraged further studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on marine living resources.

33. In the resolution's operative paragraph on the 'Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects' ("the regular process"), the Assembly decided to launch the start-up phase, the "assessment of assessments", to be completed within two years, as a preparatory stage towards the establishment of the regular process.

34. It also outlined an organizational arrangement that includes an ad hoc steering group to oversee the execution of the "assessment of assessments" (of which, *inter alia*, UNEP should be a member), two UN agencies (UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) to co-lead the process and

a group of experts. The lead agencies are asked to undertake the following actions, under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Steering Group, in addition to contributing to the work in accordance with their own mandate: (a) To provide secretariat services to the Ad Hoc Steering Group; (b) To coordinate the work in collaboration with relevant UN bodies, organizations and programmes and related international organizations; (c) To establish a group of experts, upon approval by the Ad Hoc Steering Group, to undertake the actual work of assessing the various assessments, taking into account the importance of adequate participation of experts from developing countries within this group; and (d) To prepare a report on the results of the “assessment of assessments” for the General Assembly. The Assembly decided that the “assessment of assessments” should be financed through voluntary contributions and other resources available to participating organizations and bodies, and invited Member States in a position to do so to make contributions.

35. The Assembly further welcomed the work done by the secretariats of relevant UN specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation on ocean issues, including through UN-Oceans, the inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the UN system, and encouraged continued updates to Member States by UN-Oceans regarding its priorities and initiatives, and the proposed participation in UN-Oceans.

36. In a related resolution entitled ‘**Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments**’ (60/31), also adopted on 29 November 2005, the Assembly recognized that the interrelationship between ocean activities, such as shipping and fishing, and environmental issues needs further consideration. It also stressed its concern that marine pollution from all sources, including vessels and in particular land-based sources, constitutes a serious threat to human health and safety, and endangers fish stocks, marine biodiversity and marine habitats and has significant costs to local and national economies.

37. The Assembly reaffirmed paragraph 16 of resolution 59/25 concerning the convening by the Secretary-General, pursuant to article 36 of the Agreement, of a review conference (“the review conference”), to be held in New York from 22 to 26 May 2006, and requested the Secretary-General to convene in March 2006 a fifth round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement, to serve as preparation for that review conference, and requested the Secretary-General to invite relevant organizations to attend the fifth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement as observers.

38. The Assembly welcomed and urged further efforts by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as a matter of priority, to strengthen and modernize their mandates to include an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and biodiversity considerations, where those aspects are lacking, to ensure that they effectively contribute to long term conservation and management of marine living resources.

39. The Assembly called upon States, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and other specialized agencies of the UN, sub-regional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, where appropriate, and other appropriate intergovernmental bodies, to cooperate in achieving sustainable aquaculture, including through information exchange, developing equivalent standards on such issues as aquatic animal health and human health and safety concerns, assessing the potential positive and negative impacts of aquaculture, including socio-economics, on the marine and coastal environment, including biodiversity, and adopting relevant methods and techniques to minimize and mitigate adverse effects.

40. The Assembly welcomed progress made in the implementation of resolution 59/25, which calls for the expansion, where appropriate, of the competence of existing regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements to regulate bottom fisheries and the impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, or for the establishment of new regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with such competence to cover areas of the high seas where no such organization or arrangement currently exists.

41. The Assembly noted that 2005 marks the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the GPA, and urged all States to implement the GPA and to accelerate activity to safeguard the marine ecosystem, including fish stocks, against pollution and physical degradation. It called upon States, FAO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNEP, in particular its Regional Seas programme, regional and sub-regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other appropriate intergovernmental organizations that have not yet done so to take action to address the issue of lost or

abandoned fishing gear and related marine debris, including through the collection of data on gear loss, economic costs to fisheries and other sectors, and the impact on marine ecosystems.

42. The Assembly encouraged close cooperation and coordination, as appropriate, between States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, UN programmes and other bodies, such as FAO, IMO, UNEP, the GPA, and regional seas arrangements, regional and sub-regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to address the issue of lost and discarded fishing gear and related marine debris through initiatives such as the analysis of the implementation and effectiveness of the existing measures relevant to the control and management of derelict fishing gear and related marine debris, the development and implementation of targeted studies to determine the socio-economic, technical and other factors that influence the accidental loss and deliberate disposal of fishing gear at sea, the assessment and implementation of preventive measures, incentives and/or disincentives relating to the loss and disposal of fishing gear at sea, and the development of best management practices. It encouraged consideration of the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Education and Outreach Seminar on Derelict Fishing Gear and Related Marine Debris (January 2004) and their implementation.

43. In an operative section on 'Cooperation within the UN system', the Assembly requested relevant parts of the UN system, international financial institutions and donor agencies to support increased enforcement and compliance capabilities for regional fisheries management organizations and their member States. It invited FAO to continue cooperative arrangements with UN agencies on the implementation of plans of action and to report to the Secretary-General on priorities for cooperation and coordination. It also invited the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, FAO and other relevant bodies of the UN system to consult and cooperate in the preparation of questionnaires designed to collect information on sustainable fisheries, in order to avoid duplication.

44. In resolution 60/202 of 22 December 2005 dealing with the '**Convention on Biological Diversity**' (CBD), the General Assembly noted reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the recent progress made with respect to the achievement of the three objectives set out in the CBD. It reiterated the commitment of States parties to the CBD and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to support the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as other biodiversity-related agreements and the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and to continue to negotiate within the framework of the CBD, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. It reiterated the resolve of all States to fulfill commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and to continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

45. The Assembly reaffirmed the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization.

46. It invited the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the CBD and invited the parties to the CBD that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so. It urged parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions.

47. It took note of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC, UNCCD and the CBD, and further encouraged continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status. The Assembly stressed the importance of reducing duplicative reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions while respecting their independent legal status and their independent mandates. It invited States parties to provide the new Executive Secretary of the Convention with support and asked him to continue reporting to the Assembly on the on-going work regarding the Convention, including its Cartagena Protocol.

48. By its resolution 60/205 of 22 December 2005, entitled, '**Science and technology for development**', the General Assembly, recognizing the vital role that science and technology can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases,

improve education and protect the environment, welcomed the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of UNEP.

49. The Assembly further affirmed its commitment to: (a) strengthening and enhancing existing mechanisms and to supporting initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change; (b) promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, access to and development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries; (d) promoting and supporting greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy; and (f) supporting the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means.

50. The Assembly requested the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum to address the special needs of the developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communication technologies and environmental management. It recognized the contribution of, *inter alia*, UNEP, in the area of biotechnology, and encouraged relevant bodies of the UN system engaged in biotechnology to collaborate with a view to enhancing effectiveness in the implementation of programmes designed to assist developing countries in building capacity in all areas of biotechnology, including industry and agriculture, as well as for risk assessment and management of biosafety.

51. On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/98 on the **‘Effects of Atomic Radiation’**, in which it, concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed, commended the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) for the valuable contribution it has been making to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement. It endorsed the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly, and invited Member States, the UN system and NGOs concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports. The Assembly requested UNEP to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public; and urged UNEP to review and strengthen the present funding of the Scientific Committee, pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 59/114, so that the Committee can discharge the responsibilities and mandate entrusted to it.

Other resolutions of higher relevance to UNEP

52. **‘Sustainable mountain development’** was addressed in resolution 60/198, adopted on 22 December 2005. Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, the Assembly noted with appreciation that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the importance of sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, as well as the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth’s freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage. It noted with concern that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems. It also noted that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and other forms of watershed degradation, the occurrence of natural disasters, as well as increasing out-migration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining, agriculture and the consequences of global climate change are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountains, consistent with the MDGs.

53. The Assembly invited Governments, the UN system, the international financial institutions, GEF, all relevant UN conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions. It further encouraged all relevant entities of the UN system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to

strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of relevant chapters of Agenda 21 and paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the inter-agency group on mountains and the need for the further involvement of the UN system, in particular FAO, UNEP, the United Nations University (UNU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations. It also recognized the efforts of the Mountain Partnership and invited the Partnership Secretariat to report on its activities and achievements to the fourteenth meeting of CSD in 2006, including in regard to the thematic cluster issues of energy, climate change, air pollution and atmosphere and industrial development. The Assembly noted with appreciation in this context the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, ISDR and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

54. By its resolution 60/192 of 22 December 2005, the Assembly decided to declare **2008 the 'International Year of Planet Earth'**. It designated United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as the lead agency and the focal point for the Year, to organize activities, in collaboration with UNEP and other relevant entities of the UN system, as well as the International Union of Geological Sciences and other Earth science societies and groups throughout the world. It agreed that the activities of the International Year will be funded from voluntary contributions. It further encouraged all Member States, the UN system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of Earth sciences for the achievement of sustainable development and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels.

55. In its resolution 60/201 of 22 December 2005 on the **'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa'**, (UNCCD) the General Assembly, noting that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, resolved to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, *inter alia*, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels. The Assembly invited GEF to strengthen the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation. It took note of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD and further encouraged continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status.

56. In a related resolution (60/200 of 22 December 2005) on the **'International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006'**, (adopted with a vote of 120 to 1 against, with 47 abstentions) the Assembly, taking note of the decision of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, held in Nairobi from 17 to 28 October 2005, on the celebration of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification, and aware of the unique opportunity offered by the Year to raise public awareness on the issue of desertification and to protect the biological diversity of deserts as well as the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities affected by desertification, reiterated its call to Member States and all relevant international organizations to support the activities related to desertification, including land degradation, to be organized by affected countries, in particular African countries and LDCs.

57. By resolution 60/197 of 22 December 2005 dealing with the **'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'**, the Assembly, remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects, noted the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, *inter alia*, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries.

58. The Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention: to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and called upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving that objective. It noted that States that have ratified UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol welcome its entry into force on 16 February 2005, and strongly urged States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner. It noted with interest the activities undertaken under the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol.

59. The Assembly noted the importance of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 9 December 2005. It also noted the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC, the UNCCD and the CBD and encouraged cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status.

60. Resolution 60/199 on the **'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme'** adopted on 22 December 2005, welcomed initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the UN Millennium Declaration. Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of all forms of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, welcomed efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development.

61. Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General and reaffirming that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation is the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development agreed to at WSSD, emphasized the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts. The Assembly called upon Governments, as well as relevant regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development.

62. The Assembly encouraged national and regional initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking into full account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development. It called upon Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies.

63. It took note of activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the UN system, and encouraged efforts to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It stressed that the wider use of available renewable sources of energy requires technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation.

64. In a resolution (60/195) on the **'International Strategy for Disaster Reduction'** (ISDR), adopted on 22 December 2005, the Assembly, expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries, reiterated that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development. It recognized the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasized the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively. The Assembly emphasized that disaster risk reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

65. The Assembly welcomed the Hyogo Declaration, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and the Common Statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future, as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, and

recognized that the Hyogo Framework for Action complements the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action. Taking note that the scope of the Hyogo Framework for Action encompasses disasters caused by hazards of natural origin and related environmental and technological hazards and risks and thus reflects a holistic and multi-hazard approach to disaster risk management and the relationship between them, which can have a significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems, the Assembly endorsed the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework and recalled the Common Statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future.

66. The Assembly recognized that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts. It stressed the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels from the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities as well as the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, into development plans and poverty eradication programmes. It also stressed the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, *inter alia*, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations.

67. It recognized the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster risk reduction and looked forward to the results of the Third International Conference on Early Warning, which will be held from 27 to 29 March 2006, in Bonn, Germany. The Assembly requested, in this context, the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) to complete the preparation of the global survey on early warning capacities and gaps, including an account of available technologies for early warning, and invited Member States to provide inputs that may assist the ISDR inter-agency secretariat in preparing this survey. The Assembly reiterated its call on Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction and to strengthen them, wherever they exist, encouraged the platforms to share relevant information on standards and practices, in this regard urges the UN system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invited the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of ISDR's inter-agency secretariat in order to ensure such support.

68. In a related resolution (60/196) also adopted on 22 December 2005, on '**Natural disasters and vulnerability**', the General Assembly again noted that the scope of the Hyogo Framework for Action encompasses disasters caused by hazards of natural origin and related environmental and technological hazards and risks and thus reflects a holistic and multi-hazard approach to disaster risk management and the relationship between them, which can have a significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems. Noting that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular in developing countries, the Assembly expressed deep concern at the recent increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters in some regions of the world and their substantial economic, social and environmental impacts, in particular upon developing countries.

69. The Assembly noted the need for international and regional cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the impacts of all natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts and floods, and associated natural disasters, in particular in developing countries and disaster-prone countries. It also underscored the importance of addressing disaster risks related to changing social, economic, environmental conditions and land use, and the impact of hazards associated with geological events, weather, water, climate variability and climate change in sector development planning and programmes as well as in post-disaster situations.

70. The Assembly stressed the importance of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action and the priorities for action that States, regional and international organizations and international financial institutions as well as other concerned actors should take into consideration in their approach to disaster risk reduction and implement, as appropriate, according to their own circumstances and capacities, bearing in mind the vital importance of promoting a culture of prevention in the area of natural disasters, including through the mobilization of adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, and of addressing disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness, and the adverse effects of natural disasters in efforts to implement national development plans and poverty reduction strategies

with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. It emphasized in order to build resilience, particularly in developing countries, the importance of addressing the underlying risk factors identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action and the importance of promoting the integration of risk reduction associated with geological and hydro-meteorological hazards in disaster risk reduction programmes.

71. The Assembly encouraged the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue, within its mandate, particularly the Hyogo Framework for Action, to enhance the coordination of activities to promote disaster risk reduction and to make available to the relevant UN entities information on options for natural disaster risk reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities. It encouraged the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encouraged IPCC to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries.

72. On 15 December 2005, the Assembly adopted another related resolution (60/125) entitled **‘International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development’**, in which it also expressed its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters. It called upon States to fully implement the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. The Assembly welcomed the effective cooperation among the affected States, relevant bodies of the UN system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and other relevant organizations and civil society, in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stressed the need to continue such cooperation and delivery throughout relief operations and medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards. It encouraged the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies as well as the sharing of geographical data for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate. It also requested the UN system to improve its coordination of disaster recovery efforts, from relief to development, *inter alia*, by strengthening institutional, coordination and strategic planning efforts in disaster recovery, in support of national authorities.

73. In another related resolution entitled **‘Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the UN’** (60/124), adopted on 15 December 2005, the General Assembly again expressed deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, and reaffirmed the need for sustainable measures at all levels to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards using an integrated, multi-hazard and participatory approach to addressing vulnerability, risk assessment, and disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. It reiterated the need for a more effective, efficient, coherent, coordinated and better performing UN country presence, with a strengthened role for the senior UN resident official responsible for the coordination of UN humanitarian assistance, including appropriate authority, resources and accountability.

74. In another related resolution (60/15), which was adopted on 14 November 2005, entitled, **‘Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster’**, the General Assembly recalled the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, and noted the communiqué relating to support for tsunami and multi-hazard warning systems within the context of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, adopted at the third Earth Observation Summit, in Brussels, on 16 February 2005. The Assembly stressed the need to develop and implement risk-reduction strategies and to integrate them, where appropriate, into national development plans, in particular through the implementation of ISDR, so as to enhance the resilience of populations in disasters and reduce risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources. It also emphasized that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. It requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the UN institutional mechanism and capacities in support of national and local authorities for the coordination of tsunami disaster-recovery efforts and reaffirmed that all regional efforts should serve the purpose of strengthening international cooperation aimed at the creation of a global multi-hazard early warning system, including the newly established Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

75. The Assembly adopted resolution 60/220 on 22 December 2005 on **‘Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia’**. In that resolution, the

Assembly noted with grave concern the effects of the 2004 tsunami, which threaten the livelihoods and environment of the coastal population and have had a negative impact on the Somali economy. The Assembly expressed its concern that shipments of illegal nuclear and toxic waste dumped along the coastline of Somalia and stirred up by the tsunami, as reported by the UNEP Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force, have caused health and environmental problems and can cause serious long-term effects on human health, that they pose a very serious environmental hazard, not only in Somalia but in the eastern Africa sub-region, and that they are contrary to international law, infringing on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia. The Assembly called upon the international community to assist in conducting critical assessments of the environmental impacts of the tsunami-affected areas, drought and flood-affected areas and of toxic and other wastes, and in putting into place aggressive programmes focusing on short, medium and long-term measures in the areas of institutional development, development of policy and legislation, land use and soil management, marine and coastal ecosystem management and disaster management (prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation).

76. By its resolution 60/194 on the **‘Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States’**, adopted on 22 December 2005, the General Assembly urged Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions, the GEF, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions for the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation including the further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes. It called for the full and effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and targets adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions for the means of implementation, as contained in the Mauritius Strategy, and encouraged SIDS and their development partners to continue to consult widely in order to develop further concrete projects and programmes for its implementation. It also encouraged the implementation of partnership initiatives, within the framework of the Mauritius Strategy, in support of the sustainable development of SIDS and requested the relevant agencies of the UN system, within their respective mandates, to mainstream, as appropriate, the Mauritius Strategy in their work programmes and to establish a SIDS focal point within their respective secretariats.

Further resolutions of relevance to UNEP’s work programme

77. By its resolution 60/209 of 22 December 2005, entitled, **‘Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)’**, the Assembly reaffirmed that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in a multi-sectoral and integrated way, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and sectoral strategies in such areas as education, the development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural, local and community development, productive employment, population, environment and natural resources, water and sanitation, agriculture, food security, energy and migration and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve development, security and stability, and, in that regard, encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities, including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers. The Assembly further reaffirmed that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development.

78. The Assembly emphasized the link between poverty eradication and improving access to safe drinking water, and stressed the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, as reaffirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It also recognized that natural disasters remain a major impediment to sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, invited Member States, the UN system, including international financial institutions, regional bodies and international organizations, as well as relevant civil society organizations, to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, in respect of enhancing the capacity of countries in Africa, LDCs, landlocked developing countries and SIDS to reduce the impact of disasters.

79. In a section on the UN and the fight against poverty, the Assembly called for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and

coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, which provides a comprehensive basis for the follow-up to the outcomes of those conferences and summits and contributes to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. It reaffirmed the role of UN funds and programmes, in particular UNDP and its associated funds, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, *inter alia*, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN.

80. By its decision 60/** of 22 December 2005 (adopted by a vote of 127 to 1 against), entitled, **‘Operational activities for development of the United Nations system’**, the General Assembly, took note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on some measures to improve overall performance of the UN system at the country level, the related note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on that report.

81. In a resolution on the **‘Third United Nations Conference of the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010’**, (60/228) of 22 December 2005, the Assembly reaffirmed the commitment to address the special needs of LDCs, and urged all countries and all relevant organizations of the UN system to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010. It reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the UN system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this context requested him to engage the UNDG, consistent with the respective mandates of its members, in the coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action. It also requested the UN system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the comprehensive global review, and affirmed that appropriate inter-agency meetings should be convened to ensure the mobilization and coordination of the entire UN system.

82. The General Assembly adopted resolution 60/222 on the **‘New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD): progress in implementation and international support’** on 23 December 2005. The Assembly, recognizing the progress made in the implementation of NEPAD as well as regional and international support, while acknowledging that much needs to be done, urged continuous support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance and increased flows of foreign direct investment, and transfer of technology. The Assembly welcomed the efforts made by African countries and regional and sub-regional organizations, including the African Union, in developing sectoral policy frameworks and implementing specific programmes of NEPAD. The Assembly also welcomed the commitment of resources by some development partners for various NEPAD programmes, and in this regard invited support to be extended to Africa in water and sanitation and in housing and urban development and other priority sectors specified in the NEPAD Programme of Action aiming at the achievement of sustainable development in the region;

83. The Assembly requested the UN system to continue to provide assistance to the African Union and NEPAD secretariats and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of NEPAD. It noted that the entities of the UN system have been actively using the regional consultation mechanism as a vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination at the regional level, and encouraged them to intensify their efforts in developing and implementing joint programmes in support of NEPAD at the regional level. It encouraged the UN funds and programmes and specialized agencies to continue to strengthen further their existing coordination and programming mechanisms, and the simplification and harmonization of planning, disbursement and reporting procedures, as a means of enhancing support for African countries in the implementation of NEPAD, and noted the growing collaboration among the entities of the UN system in support of NEPAD, and requested the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the UN system in support of NEPAD, on the basis of the agreed clusters.

84. In a related resolution on the **‘Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa’** (60/223 of 23 December 2005), the Assembly reaffirmed that the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General must remain a

priority in the agenda of the UN system and for Member States. The Assembly, welcoming the decision taken in the 2005 World Summit Outcome to establish a Peacebuilding Commission, invited the Commission of the African Union, the secretariat of NEPAD and the UN Secretariat to coordinate their actions with a view to implementing an African-led agenda, deriving from the strategic policy framework for post-conflict reconstruction being developed by the Union to tackle post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction, addressing the linkages among security, development and humanitarian dimensions of peace in Africa.

85. The General Assembly adopted resolution 60/212 on ‘**South-South Cooperation**’ on 22 December 2005. In that resolution the Assembly stressed that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The Assembly welcomed the contributions made by developing countries to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters. It also urged all relevant UN organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives, and took note of the initiatives contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit, the Marrakesh Framework for the Implementation on South-South Cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action.

86. By its resolution 60/210 of 22 December 2005 on ‘**Women in Development**’, the General Assembly, recognizing that population and development issues, education and training, health, nutrition, the environment, water supply, sanitation, housing, communications, science and technology, and employment opportunities are important elements for effective poverty eradication and the advancement and empowerment of women, *inter alia*, called upon organizations of the UN system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with the national development strategies. It further encouraged relevant UN funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, to assist Governments, at their request, in strengthening their capacity to promote and support the economic advancement of women through, *inter alia*, employment and entrepreneurship practices and programmes that affirm and empower women.

87. In its related resolution 60/140 of 16 December 2005 entitled, ‘**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**’, the Assembly emphasized that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of UN summits, conferences and special sessions, as well as the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit. It called upon all parts of the UN system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and maintain gender specialists, as well as ensure that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for gender mainstreaming.

88. In a resolution on ‘**The Rights of the Child**’ (60/231 of 23 December 2005), the Assembly expressed profound concern that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of, *inter alia*, the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, environmental damage, and natural disasters, and expressed its conviction that urgent and effective national and international action is called for.

89. In General Assembly resolution 60/165 of 16 December 2005 on ‘**The right to food**’, which was adopted by a vote of 176 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention, the Assembly welcomed the work done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), in which it affirmed, *inter alia*, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights, and is also inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all. It further recalled general comment

No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant), in which the Committee noted, *inter alia*, the importance of ensuring sustainable water resources for human consumption and agriculture in realization of the right to adequate food.

90. In a resolution (60/142 of 16 December 2005) dealing with the **‘Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People’**, the Assembly, reaffirming the commitment of States to continue making progress in the advancement of the human rights of the world’s indigenous peoples at the local, national, regional and international levels, as well as in areas of culture, education, health, environment and social and economic development, adopted the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People, with the theme “Partnership for action and dignity”. It invited Governments, the organs, organizations and bodies of the UN system, other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous and other NGOs and civil society actors to draw up their own plans for the Second Decade, using as a guideline for action the goals, objectives and Programme of Action for the Second Decade, including integrating a gender perspective in such activities.

91. In resolution 60/203 of 22 December 2005, entitled **‘Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)’**, the Assembly, conscious of the unique opportunity provided by the Cities Without Slums Initiative mentioned in the Millennium Declaration for realizing economies of scale and substantial multiplier effects in helping to attain the other MDGs, acknowledged the significance of the urban dimension of poverty eradication and the need to integrate water and sanitation issues within a broad-based approach to human settlements. It requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the UNON under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other UN organs and organizations in Nairobi;

92. By its resolution 60/183 of 22 December 2005 regarding the **‘Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources’**, adopted by a vote of 156 to 6 against with 8 abstentions, the General Assembly, aware of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, and of the dire economic and social consequences in this regard, reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water. It called upon Israel not to exploit, damage, cause loss or depletion of, or endanger the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and recognized the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion, or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, and expressed the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The Assembly also called upon Israel to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely the water and land resources, and poses an environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations.

93. The Assembly adopted resolution 60/60 on the **‘Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control’** on 8 December 2005, by a vote of 176 to 1 against with 4 abstentions. The Assembly reaffirmed that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties. It called upon States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development. It invited all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing this information to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. In a related disarmament resolution (60/64) on **‘Confidence-building measures in the regional and sub-regional context’**, also adopted on 8 December, the Assembly underscored that resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and

social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries.

94. In a related resolution (60/57 of 8 December 2005) on the **‘Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes’**, the Assembly took note of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Trans-boundary Movements within Africa, and expressed the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Trans-boundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories.

95. By its resolution 60/22 of 23 November 2005 on the **‘Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-seventh session’**, the General Assembly drew the attention of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their views on the draft principles on the allocation of loss in the case of trans-boundary harm arising out of hazardous activities. The Assembly also invited Governments to provide information to the International Law Commission, as requested in chapter III of its report, regarding, *inter alia*, (a) Shared natural resources; (b) Effects of armed conflicts on treaties; and (c) Responsibility of international organizations.

96. By its resolution 60/190 of 22 December 2005 on a **‘Global Code of Ethics for Tourism’**, the General Assembly recognized the need to promote sustainable tourism development, including non-consumptive and ecotourism, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of Ecotourism, 2002, the UN Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002, the World Ecotourism Summit, 2002, and its Quebec Declaration and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism as adopted by the World Tourism Organization (WTO), in order to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities while maintaining the cultural and environmental integrity of the host communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and natural heritages and to promote sustainable tourism development and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities. The Assembly also emphasized the need for the promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism for the protection and safeguarding of natural and cultural heritage that could be beneficial to all sectors of society and the natural environment towards the achievement of sustainable development.

97. By its resolution 60/99 on **‘International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space’**, adopted on 8 December 2005, the General Assembly, underlined that it is convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in such areas as telemedicine, tele-education, disaster management and environmental protection as well as other Earth observation applications contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the UN that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, *inter alia*, poverty eradication. The Assembly, having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-eighth session, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, consider, *inter alia*, matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth’s environment. The Assembly recommended that more attention be paid and political support be provided to all matters relating to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth’s environment. It urged entities of the UN system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to implementing the UN Millennium Declaration, and encouraged entities of the UN system to participate fully in the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities.

98. In a resolution entitled, **‘Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal’**, (60/8) of 3 November 2005, the Assembly welcomed joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee and the UN system in fields such as human development and poverty alleviation, and environmental protection, and recognized the important role of sport in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The General Assembly adopted a related resolution (60/9) on **‘Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace’** on 3 November 2005, and a resolution on **‘Policies and programmes involving youth’** (60/2) on 6 October 2005.

99. By its resolution 60/184 entitled, **‘International trade and development’**, adopted on 22 December 2005 by a vote of 121 to 1 against with 51 abstentions, the Assembly, stressed the need to address adequately the vulnerabilities faced by developing countries, on account of external shocks, particularly natural disasters that can damage the social and economic infrastructure and have long-term

consequences, especially hampering the achievement of their sustainable development. It reaffirmed the urgency of recognizing the rights of local and indigenous communities that are holders of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, of developing and implementing benefit-sharing mechanisms on mutually agreed terms for the use of such knowledge, innovations and practices.

100. The Assembly also reaffirmed that all countries have a shared interest in the success of the Doha work programme, which aims both at further increasing trading opportunities for developing countries and at making the trading system more conducive to development, and underscored the need for the major developed countries to make ambitious proposals in line with their commitments to make progress in all areas of negotiations, particularly in agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services, the trade-related intellectual property system and rules as well as operational and meaningful special and differential treatment for developing countries, and to adopt practical and concrete solutions to the outstanding implementation-related issues and concerns raised by developing countries.

101. The Assembly called for the successful and timely conclusion of the negotiations on the Doha work programme in order to maximize the contribution of the trading system to raising standards of living, eradicating hunger and poverty, generating employment and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. It recognized the need to ensure that the comparative advantage of developing countries is not undermined by any form of protectionism, including the arbitrary and abusive use of non-tariff measures, non-trade barriers and other standards to unfairly restrict the access of developing countries' products to developed countries' markets and, in this regard, reaffirmed that developing countries should play an increasing role in the formulation of, *inter alia*, safety, environment and health standards, and recognized also the need to facilitate the increased and meaningful participation of the developing countries in the work of relevant international standard-setting organizations. It also called for accelerating the negotiations on the development-related mandate concerning the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, especially the amendments of the Agreement, in order for intellectual property rules fully to support the objectives of the CBD as well as for trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and public health to address the problems afflicting many developing countries, including LDCs.

102. In a resolution (60/187) on '**External debt crisis**', adopted on 22 December 2005, the Assembly, stressed that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and in this regard urges countries to direct those resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards these objectives.

103. The Assembly adopted resolution 60/204 on the '**Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence**' on 22 December 2005. By that resolution, the Assembly underlined that in addressing the linkages between globalization and sustainable development, particular focus should be placed on identifying and implementing mutually reinforcing policies and practices that promote sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection and that this requires efforts at both the national and international levels. It reaffirmed that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of UN activities, stressed the importance of continuing efforts in this regard. The Assembly recognized that science and technology, including information and communication technologies, are vital for the achievement of the development goals and that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advancements and enhance their productive capacity, and in this regard reaffirmed the commitment to promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries.

104. In a related resolution (60/152) on '**Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights**', adopted on 16 December 2005 by a vote of 121 in favour, 53 against and 4 abstentions, the Assembly, realizing the need to undertake a thorough, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental and cultural impact of globalization on societies, called upon Member States, relevant agencies of the UN system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization so that poverty is systematically reduced and the international development targets are achieved. In a related resolution (60/157 of 16 December 2005) on '**The right to development**' (adopted by a vote of 172 in favour, 2 against and 5 abstentions), the Assembly stressed that poverty eradication is one of the critical

elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels, especially in the context of the MDG of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. In another related resolution entitled '**Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all**' (60/163 of 16 December), adopted by a vote of 116 for, 53 against and 8 abstentions, the Assembly affirmed that human rights include social, economic and cultural rights and the right to peace, a healthy environment and development, and that development is in fact the realization of these rights.

105. The General Assembly, on 16 December 2005, adopted resolution 60/130 on the **Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly**', in which it, *inter alia*, underlined the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasized the need to take concrete actions within the UN system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability. It also invited relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development.

106. The role of the private sector was also addressed in a resolution entitled, '**Towards global partnerships**' (60/215 of 22 December 2005), which underlined the importance of the contribution of the private sector, NGOs and civil society in general to the implementation of the outcomes of UN conferences in the economic, social and related fields, and welcomed the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing the principle of good corporate citizenship, that is, bringing social values and responsibilities to bear on a conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations.

107. The Assembly took note of the progress achieved in the work of the UN on partnerships, notably in the framework of various UN organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, such as the Global Compact, launched by the Secretary-General. It recalled that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of NGOs, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in the following areas: the generation of new investments and employment, financing for development, health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change.

108. The Assembly encouraged responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact, and welcomed innovative approaches to use partnerships as a means to better implement goals and programmes, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty and encouraged relevant UN bodies and agencies to further explore such possibilities. It reiterated its call upon all bodies within the UN system that engage in partnerships to ensure the integrity and independence of the Organization and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, on their websites and through other means.

109. In its resolution 60/129 of 16 December 2005 on the '**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**', the Assembly urged States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner to cooperate and to mobilize resources to enhance the capacity of, and reducing the heavy burden borne by, countries that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and called upon the Office to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries. In a related resolution on '**Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa**' (60/128) of 16 December 2005, it called upon the donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum.

110. In its resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005 on **‘International migration and development’**, the General Assembly decided that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006 and that it will discuss the overall theme of the multi-dimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education.

111. On decolonization-related issues, the Assembly, in resolution 60/115 of 8 December on the **‘Question of New Caledonia’** noted the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection. It also noted the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, notably the “Zonéco” operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone. In resolution 60/117 of 8 December 2005 on the **‘Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands’**, the Assembly, conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, requested the Territories and the administering Powers to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories.

112. The General Assembly adopted resolution 60/4 on 20 October 2005 on the **‘Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations’**, in which it invited the UN system to continue to encourage and facilitate dialogue among civilizations and formulate ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in the activities of the UN in various fields. In a related resolution (60/10) of 3 November 2005, entitled, **‘Promotion of inter-religious dialogue and cooperation for peace’**, the Assembly took note of several mutually inclusive and reinforcing initiatives on inter-religious, inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogues and cooperation for peace, including the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, held in Tehran, on 9 and 10 May 2005, (organized jointly by the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNEP, and co-sponsored by UNU and UNESCO).

113. The General Assembly adopted resolution 60/14 on 14 November 2005 on the subject of **‘Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster’**. The Assembly, conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences, noted the consensus reached among members of the Chernobyl Forum (of which UNEP is a member) on the findings of the reports entitled “Environmental Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident and their Remediation: Twenty Years of Experience” and “Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident and Special Health Care Programmes”, and recognized the important contribution made by the Forum. The Assembly requested the UN Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to organize a further study of health, environmental and socio-economic consequences of the Chernobyl accident, consistent with the recommendations of the Forum.

114. By its resolution 60/217 of 22 December 2005 on **‘International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan’**, the General Assembly recognized that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term nature of its consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region. Taking note of the need for know-how in minimizing and mitigating radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental problems in the Semipalatinsk region, the Assembly emphasized the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts by Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region. It called upon the international community, including all Member States and UN institutions to continue to support Kazakhstan in addressing the challenges of the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, and to share their knowledge and

experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region. The General Assembly also invited the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant UN agencies, on modalities for mobilizing the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region.

115. **‘International cooperation against the world drug problem’** was the subject of resolution 60/178 of 16 December 2005, which, *inter alia*, called upon States, where appropriate, to enhance support, including, where appropriate, through the provision of new and additional resources, for alternative development; security and rule of law, as necessary; environmental protection and eradication programmes undertaken by countries affected by the illicit cultivation of cannabis, especially in Africa, of opium poppy and of coca bush, in particular national programmes that seek to reduce social marginalization and promote sustainable economic development.

116. By its resolution 60/191 of 22 December 2005, the General Assembly declared 2008 the **‘International Year of the Potato’**, noting that the potato is a staple food in the diet of the world’s population, and affirming the need to focus world attention on the role that the potato can play in providing food security and eradicating poverty in support of achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The Assembly invited FAO to facilitate the implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with Governments, the UNDP, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research centres and other relevant organizations of the UN system, as well as relevant NGOs.
